FBIS DAILY REPORT

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IZRAEL DETAILS 'FALLOUT' CHECK AFTER 2 AUGUST TEST

LD171311 Moscow TASS in English 1303 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 17 TASS -- "The nuclear explosion carried out by the Soviet Union on Novaya Zemlya Island on August 2 did not become a breach of the 1963 Moscow treaty", said Yuriy Izrael, chairman of the State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Monitoring the Environment.

He spoke at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists at the Press Centre of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs today.

"During underground nuclear explosions, volatile products, mainly the isotopes of noble radioactive gases, penetrate the atmosphere some time afterwards and may be scattered by winds to various distances, including the territories of other countries. Gaseous iodine products sometimes join the isotopes. But they did not lead to radioactive fallout."

"On August 2, a small amount of gaseous radioactive products leaked into the atmosphere but that, and this is of fundamental importance, did not lead to the formation of radioactive fallout and, consequently, did not result in a breach of the Moscow treaty of 1963".

"A plane made flights along the Soviet Union's northern borders adjoining Scandinavia for several days in succession -- after August 2 and till August 7 -- with a view to measuring transborder fluxes of ordinary chemical substances, and radioactivity. The plane did not record any increases in radioactivity".

"We analyzed very thoroughly the meteorological situation at the test range on Novaya Zemlya Island and a possibility of travel of even very small portions of radiation in the direction of Scandinavia".

"The meteorological situation was characterised by the presence of anticyclonic crest, at the centre of which there was a small cyclone with easterly and south-easteerly wind".

"A calm weather predominated, on the whole, in the test area. So, radioactive products, according to data we have available, did not travel in the direction of Scandinavia".

"In pure theory," Yuriy Izrael went on to say, "one can assume that a small portion of air masses with gaseous radioactive products -- in an amount posing no hazard to the population -- could get to the territory of Scandinavia".

"This could be a very small amount and, as was reported by the Swedish and Norwegian press, in particular, it constituted one-thousandth of becquerel per cubic metre. This is smaller by a factor of 100,000 than the amount which was detected in the area of Finland, for example, during the Chernobyl accident, a smaller by a factor of 1,000 than the background content of natural radon in the atmosphere over land, over Sweden, in particular".

"In our days, with the existence of up-to-date equipment, it is possible to detect any amount of radioactive products at any point on the globe".

"If one shows concern over the appearance of such an insignificant amount of radioactive products", Yuriy Izrael said, "the most constructive way to solve the problem would be to end the tests of nuclear weapons, including underground ones".

"In this connection it is appropriate to recall that the Soviet side has repeatedly reaffirmed and is reaffirming its proposal immediately to begin talks on general and complete ban on the tests of nuclear weapons. As is known, the Soviet side is not to blame for the delay concerning this issue".

KARPOV: U.S., FRG 'TRYING TO AVOID' PERSHING ISSUES

LD171626 Moscow TASS in English 1608 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 17 TASS -- "Those who contend that the question of the West German Pershing-1A missiles with American nuclear warheads is an invented one, want to obscure the crux of the problem", a TASS diplomatic correspondent was told today by Viktor Karpov, head of the directorate on the disarmament and armaments problem of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The matter is that if the Soviet and American medium-range and shorter-range missiles together with their warheads were liquidated while the Pershing-1A missiles with the American warheads were preserved the FRG would remain the only power in the centre of Europe with missiles of this class. Missiles that would pose a threat to the GDR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, a part of Hungary and the western regions of the Soviet Union", Vladimir [name as received] Karpov went on.

"The American warheads for the West German Pershing-1A missiles constitute a serious threat", Viktor Karpov went on. "Each of such warheads is equal, according to some estimates, to seven or even more atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima. If we multiply this by 72 we will get a very impressive figure. So the issue of central Europe's security in connection with the Pershing-1A missiles is by no means an invented one."

"The press in the GDR and Czechoslovakia is receiving numerous letters from the population expressing concern that the plans to leave Pershing-1A missiles in West Germany with American nuclear warheads places in jeopardy the security of these countries. The letters, in particular, raise the question that the GDR and Czechoslovakia would have to approach the Soviet Union so that by appropriate military measures to counter this threat. So this problem is of an international nature and directly concerns all the peoples of central Europe," Viktor Karpov said further.

"At present the FRG and the United States are trying to avoid answering the question about what should be done with the warheads to the Pershing-1A missiles. Washington points to the FRG and NATO, while Bonn points to Washington. But time demands the adoption of a decision which would open the way to an accord of the elimination of Soviet and American medium- and shorter-range missiles. The only road to this is to implement the 'double zero variant' which was proposed by Mikhail Gorbachev in his interview to the Indonesian newspaper MERDEKA," Viktor Karpov said in conclusion.

FRG PAPER REPORTS SHULTZ LETTER ON PERSHINGS

LD180500 Moscow TASS in English 0421 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Bonn August 17 TASS -- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz sent a letter to West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher informing him about the stand of the U.S. Administration on the issue of Pershing 1A missiles, DIE WELT nespaper reported in its issue for August 18.

According to the paper, the letter said that the United States had no intention of including the issue of Pershing 1A's into the agenda of the Soviet-U.S. talks at Geneva. The missiles belong to West Germany, although their nuclear warheads are controlled by the U.S. side. The U.S. refusal to take these nuclear warheads into consideration has become the main obstacle on the road to a Soviet-American agreement on medium-range and shorter-range missiles.

The paper reported that the letter from Shultz had arrived to the West German Foreign Ministry last Friday and was conveyed to Genscher who is now on vacation.

In his letter the U.S. secretary of state assured his West German colleague that the United States did not intend to change its position at the talks. In his words, only the systems at the disposal of the U.S.S.R. and the United States are subject of the negotiations at Geneva.

FALIN SAYS U.S. 'TOUGHENING' ARMS POSITION

LD130956 Moscow TASS in English 0906 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 13 TASS -- After the Soviet Union tabled proposal on resolving on the global basis the problem of medium and theatre missiles, talks with the USA might seem, with due regard for the efforts made earlier, to have been put onto the finishing straight, Valentin Falin points out in the Soviet NEW TIMES weekly of foreign policy analysis (No 33). Yet it remains unclear how one can tally the declarations of the U.S. Administration, which recognized by word of mouth the importance of curbing the arms race, with its real steps oriented towards sharpening and toughening the power confrontation.

We are being told, and clearly enough, that the USA is not yet prepared to accept the nuclear-free status itself and is not going to contribute towards a moderation of nuclear ambitions by its NATO allies. Yet that is not all. It turns out that nuclear-free Western Europe is no longer attractive as a military partner to Washington, to be more precise, as a forward line enabling the United States to hope for advantages in a big conflict. But "neutral Europe", should that happen, is seen by the United States as an alien almost an enemy factor against which it is necessary to fight. And they think that the best method is to prevent its denuclearization, even it it will be a partial one.

It is not for the first decade that the U.S. presidents have proved to be unable to combine the might of a great power with a constructive aim. The term of Ronald Reagan's second presidency will expire soon. With what political record will he leave the White House? Today, that before the finals and the change of scenery in Washington there is a little over than a year, Ronald Reagan has a chance to show political far-sightedness. [sentence as received] Will he be able to use it, will he be able to play his best political role? Valentin Falin inqures.

PANKIN CRITICIZES SOVIET VIEWS, PROPAGANDA ON ARMS

WA111125 Moscow XX CENTURY AND PEACE in English No 5, May 87 pp 29-33

[Article by Aleksey Pankin under the rubric "Polemic": "New Thinking, Openness and Soviet Peace Movement: A Letter to the Editor"]

[Text] During Gorbachev's visit last year to the Volga area, a remarkable episode was shown on TV: At a meeting with workers Mikhail Gorbachev told them about the Soviet approach to international affairs, about the Soviet conception of security and the importance the USSR attaches to strengthening its defence. One of the workers present said: "That's right. Let them be afraid of us!" Mikhail Gorbachev replied that we will not forego our security, but at the same time we do not want to frighten anyone, we do not even want anyone to be afraid of us.

I was not surprised by the way Mikhail Gorbachev presented the security problem to his listeners. During my lectures on the international situation or during talks with friends I noticed more than once that public concern about the world affairs is constantly growing. Under openness, Soviet people are becoming more aware of the bitter and cruel truth about the Great Patriotic War. Lately we have witnessed a good deal of information about the catastrophic consequences of nuclear war.

Paradoxically, all this new and rather antiwar information in combination with mass media news about the aggressive actions and intentions of the Reagan administration, NATO bloc and growth in international tension create the notion in a considerable part of our public that we are living, so to speak, in a "prewar world". Many people seriously expect a surprise attack and are afraid of a repetition of 1941, and react accordingly. I, for example, was frequently asked whether our defence efforts were sufficient if we spent 20 billion roubles, and the Americans--about 300 billion dollars? A great deal of anxiety was evoked by the prolonged unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests. The Soviet proposals at disarmament talks are sometimes taken as a concession to the West. In other words, more often than not you can meet people who think "let them be afraid of us", i.e., strictly speaking, they approach "peace from the position of strength".

This way of thinking in our society is quite explainable and even natural. In the long run, we (even those who were born after the war) well remember how we were attacked and how we were unprepared.... But we must understand that such notions came from the prenuclear era and are in contradiction with the new political thinking. In no way do they help remove the fear of the "Soviet military threat" in the West--the main reason why a considerable part of the people in the West still vote for an arms buildup.

In addition, this so-called syndrome of mistrust among the USSR population greatly restricts the freedom of the Soviet government's foreign policy manoeuvre. For example, it is difficult to say whether the Soviet public will support today, especially after the U.S. refusal to join the moratorium on nuclear tests, new unilateral measures such as the reduction of Soviet nuclear arsenals or even their freezing for a certain period. Such steps, to my mind, would favour strengthening our security since they would be the signs of confidence in our own power and would mean a final break with the defective logic of the arms race, to say nothing of the fact that they would bring confusion in the ranks of militarists exploiting the "Soviet threat" and help strengthen the positions of the Western sober-minded forces.

What should be done with such moods? Maybe the Soviet peace movement wants less openness in order not to frighten people and even to embellish the world situation? Of

course not! The answer lies not in less, but in more openness. And I want to think about this as an ordinary peace movement member and as a specialist in world affairs.

If the Soviet peace movement wants to form public opinion in the spirit of a new political thinking, the first thing it should recognize is that views in the country on the problems of war and peace are very complicated, contradictory, and dissimilar. Their systematic study employing sociologists must be the primary task. Only by understanding the reason of real fears and hopes of Soviet people, their attitude to Soviet foreign policy and determination of the level of knowledge and comprehension of international problems will it be possible to cultivate a new political thinking purposefully and not at random, to provide the results sought, not those which are counterproductive. Such information is also useful for foreign policy propaganda--the West should finally understand that public opinion does exist in the Soviet Union, too, and that peaceful initiatives of the Soviet leadership are quite a job for it.

Of course, the degree of understanding or comprehension of nuclear-age realities by the population can be revealed only by concrete researches, but even indirect signs can show that "nuclear illiteracy" in the country has not yet been overcome. Let's remember the documentary "Parity" shown just before the Gorbachev-Reagan summit in Geneva. Most of the people polled by the authors of the film could not say what military-strategic parity is. Note how "people from street" speak keenly and interestingly on the TV programme "Vremya" (Time) about home affairs and how dull they are about, for example, the moratorium.

But parity, as well as the moratorium, are the key notions of the nuclear age and present historical situation. These words are used dozens of times over radio, TV, in newspapers and magazines every day. I noticed that speeches by Soviet analysts in international affairs addressed to a mass audience about a new thinking, security concept, parity and even denials of some Western fabrications are very often carried out in a general way. That means that it is directed at an audience that does not possess proper knowledge, and this is quite natural, of problems and concrete realities used for generalizations, is frequently conducted in the manner which the audience does not understand. And this happens not because our analysts in international affairs are bad (on the contrary, I think that almost all of them are more qualified and have a broader outlook than their counterparts, in the USA) but for other reasons. Let me tell you about my experience. When I am asked during my lectures on the international situation about military parity, it is always difficult for me to find a proper answer. There is not much official data about the Soviet Armed Forces (though, the volume of the published military statistics has increased during the last 5-7 years). Of course, there are Western evaluations, but, first, are they correct, and, second, have I the right to reveal them to a broad audience? (In general, sometimes the matter in this sphere runs into absurdity: We better know Soviet missiles by names given to them by the West). As for me, I as a rule answer cautiously and in a general way.

I think there is another reason of our tendency for general, and that means not very convincing, talks. The matter is that when we begin to ground the correct principles of a new thinking, we discover that maybe our country's leadership did not always proceed from them. But it is not yet a custom to recognize our mistakes. In 1983 the USSR left the negotiations on the reduction of medium-range missiles in Europe and began the deployment of an additional number of SS-20 missiles in response to the appearance of American cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe. Some time later we renewed the negotiations and dismantled the additional number of missiles. One question suggests itself: Does this mean that retaliatory measures proved to be unnecessary? Now the USSR has agreed not to take into account for a relatively long period of time the nuclear weapons of Great Britain and France and conducts talks on

removing American and Soviet medium-range missiles from Europe, i.e., in fact, on returning to the situation existing in the middle 70's, before beginning the deployment of SS-20 missiles. But were these missiles so necessary at that time? Whatever the answers, it is illogical not to pose such questions.

I think greater openness in discussing Soviet defence and foreign policy will make a new thinking more convincing and understandable to the broad public, and our home discussion will become more mature. In addition, Western analysts, whose task is to guess about Soviet military capabilities and who use this widely for anti-Soviet aims, may lose their jobs.

Mass media play a great role in cultivating peaceful notions in the Soviet public. We see now the beginning of the process of the reevaluation of some methods in the work of international journalism in the USSR and the appearance of criticism of covering foreign events. Most often we hear reproaches in thematic monotony of materials. That is true, but I believe that excessive attention to the homeless and hungry in Western countries is not the chief drawback of our journalists. In the long run, we have in this case only an exaggerated attention to existing problems. A worse thing is that we often receive rather inaccurate covering of important international events in the press.

Some time ago I listened to the commentary on the Korean war of 1950-1953 in the "Chronicles of the Crimes of Imperialism" on the radio programme "Mayak" (Beacon). All the time the commentator spoke about "American aggression" against KPDR and did not say a word about the fact that the invasion was performed under the UN flag and military units (though symbolic) of England, France, Australia, Belgium, Colombia, Canada, Ethiopia, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Luxembourg and South Africa took part in it. Why did he ignore these facts essential for understanding the situation? Was he too lazy to consult the textbook of history? Or did he consider that their mentioning would justify the crimes of imperialism? In that case it would be more honest to speak his doubts. It was said so many times that history must not be corrected by discarding the real facts. Just imagine the perplexity of a Soviet person, who after this commentary will hear, for example, over "Voice of America" that the Korean war was a "UN international mission".

Or take the burning events of today. I cannot understand, reading the Soviet press, although I want to very much, the role of Libya in Chadian affairs....

TASS interpretations of many important foreign policy statements of Western leaders sometimes resemble the vast polemic commentaries to difficult-to-read texts from which only few lines were left. From year to year we read about the "U.S. uncontrollable increase in military expenditure" and about the excessive swelling of its military budget although it reduces it in real terms during several years. Is it not worth mentioning to the broad public that the considerable part of the American military budget is used for the servicemen, pensions for the retired and veterans? The knowledge of this fact makes it possible to look somewhat calmly at the gigantic figures of U.S. military spending.

Another example: The press writes widely about the growing aggressiveness of American imperialism and analyzes militaristic statements of President Reagan and Secretary of Defense Weinberger. At the same time, it practically does not say anything about the fact that the greater part of energy of the present administration, according to my observations, is spent for "whistling" and that it is more decisive in words than in deeds. Much talk about striving "to put socialism into a dustbin of history" ended in its smallscale and cowardly actions, if compare them with the general scope of preparations, like the occupation of Grenada or the bombing of Libya.

I, naturally, do not call people to portray the Reagan administration as a peaceful one, in fact it is really the most extremist American Government of recent decades and, apparently, for many years ahead. But the reduction of military budget, its structure and heavily restricted capabilities are also facts. Well, an interesting thing is that nobody restricts their coverage. Soviet scientific journals write about them and they are analyzed in Soviet books. But the fact that their way onto the pages of the mass press is quite difficult is the result, to my mind, of some instinctive inner orientations of many journalists dealing with international affairs which impel them to edit the real picture and display the inertia accumulated in past years from which they free themselves with more difficulty than journalists writing about home affairs.

I believe that the Soviet peace movement is vitally interested in supplying people with varied international information based on a true complex of facts. This will greatly help remove the inner tension from the conscience of many people, unfounded fears and establish the true scope of real threat. To improve the positive processes in international journalism, the peace movement could act as an organizer of a programme for a regular critical analysis of covering world events in our mass media.

One of the dangers of the aggravation of international tension and increase of confrontation between capitalism and socialism is that the moods of "cold war" fanned by imperialists in Western societies can to some degree poison us and draw us into the race in this direction. There are already examples of this. Some of our film makers have responded to the films in the "Rambo" and "Red Dawn" ilk with "Single Cruise". Today it has become popular and even fashionable to criticize this film which depicts quite far-fetched and unreal situation when Soviet people kill Americans rather naturally and in great number (by the way, I personally do not know such examples in history). But where were we when the film was just released on the screen? Did we protest and call on the public to boycott it?

The duty of Soviet peace activists is to display vigilance so that no one in the Soviet Union should stoop to such polemic and waste our moral capital gained lately.

To sum up, I should like to say that a new thinking presupposes the existence of the old one. Old thinking, like all phenomena in the sphere of social consciousness, has a strong inertia. It should not be taken for granted that the truly revolutionary views of our political leadership on the problems will be understood and accepted by the masses immediately. Soviet people are disposed to a new thinking. Nevertheless, its dissemination and propaganda is not an easy matter. It requires the reevaluation of many values, revision of habitual notions, in other words, there is a need for reconstruction. This process has already begun, it is gaining momentum and Soviet peace activists' moral and political duty is to make their own contribution to it and make it irreversible.

U.S. SENATORS MEET OFFICIALS ON DISARMAMENT

Talk With Supreme Soviet Group

LD171656 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1545 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow, 17 Aug (TASS) -- Ways to improve Soviet-U.S. relations and questions of disarmament and the search for ways to reduce international tension were at the heart of a conversation in the Kremlin today between USSR Supreme Soviet delegates and delegates from the U.S. Senate.

The delegation, headed by Senator Daniel Moynihan, arrived in Moscow yesterday on an official visit at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Leningrad as well as Moscow is on the agenda of the Americans' week-long visit.

Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Council of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, reminded the senators of the series of Soviet peace initiatives aimed at averting the arms race in space, at eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe and reducing strategic offensive weapons. Moreover, it was underlined that the Soviet side holds the view that strict verification [kontrol] of observance of adopted agreements be introduced. The USSR Supreme Soviet deputies noted the important role of developing bilateral mutually beneficial trade in the improvement of Soviet-U.S. relations. On this question, however, the Senate holds a negative position. In recent times the Senate has adopted a number of amendments to the legislation that are hostile in nature.

Senator Daniel Moynihan, the head of the delegation, said that restructuring is being followed with great attention in the United States.

Senator Paul Sarbanes acknowledged that trade relations virtually do not exist between the two countries. Any trade should be mutually advantageous, he stressed. And those changes that are happening in your country are a favorable factor not only in the USSR, but they can serve as a good beginning to our bilateral relations as well.

Regarding the state of relations between the two countries, Senator Terry Sanford pointed to the need to increase the exchange of delegations between the two countries, not only at the official level but also by widening the visits of ordinary citizens. This is the way toward better mutual understanding, the guest emphasized.

At the same time, the senator accused the Soviet Union of interference in the affairs of Afghanistan. He tried to justify the implementation of SDI by claiming that research in this field need not necessarily be used for unleashing "Star Wars."

Touching upon the situation in Afghanistan, the Soviet side stressed that questions of national reconciliation are a matter for the Afghan people themselves. If there is no interference from outside, including that from U.S. quarters, then there will be a rapid solution to the question also of withdrawing the limited Soviet contingent of troops from that country.

There can be no solution by military actions, the deputies stressed, to contentious issues these days. In this respect the whole world is following with alarm the concentration of the U.S. naval armada in the Persian Gulf. This is fraught with unforeseeable consequences. Only a political solution is acceptable here.

Both sides admitted that an agreement on eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe must become the first step in solving the historical question of disarmament.

It was noted that progress in the humanitarian sphere has been observed in bilateral relations, particularly in cultural and scientific exchanges. This could make a start to deepening business cooperation and mutual understanding.

The USSR Supreme Soviet deputies answered numerous questions from the senators, above all those concerning restructuring. It was stated by them that restructuring is not only of domestic but also of international significance. The USSR seeks to concentrate all its forces on peaceful construction and is applying maximum efforts to strengthen peace throughout the world.

The conviction was expressed that the visit by the U.S. delegation will serve to further deepen links between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the U.S. Congress and will become a contribution to improving relations between the two countries.

Taking part in the conversation from the Soviet side were: USSR Supreme Soviet Deputies Georgiy Arbatov, Georgiy Zhukov, and Vadim Zagladin.

On the same day, on behalf of the chairpeople of the Chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, a luncheon was given on the occasion of the stay in the USSR by the delegation from the U.S. Senate. Among the guests was U.S. Ambassador to the USSR Jack F. Matlock.

Meet With Bessmertnykh

LD171845 Moscow TASS in English 1809 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 17 TASS -- Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Aleksandr Bessmertnykh today had a conversation with a delegation of the U.S. Senate.

Prospects of reaching accords on limiting and reducing nuclear-missile arms, including the elimination of medium-range and shorter-range missiles on a global scale, as well as questions of interaction in solving regional problems and developing bilateral Soviet-American relations in the trade, economic, humanitarian and other fields were discussed.

UKRAINE UN MISSION PROTESTS TO U.S. ON 'PROVOCATION'

LD180757 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2317 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] New York, 18 Aug (TASS) -- The UN permanent mission of the Ukrainian SSR has protested to the U.S. mission at the United Nations over a recent provocation. On the night of 6-7 August, the note says, a shot was fired from an airgun at an apartment in New York housing a member of the Ukrainian mission staff. As a result, a window was broken in the door to the apartment. The police were called to the scene of the incident.

The UN permanent mission of the Ukrainian SSR regards this occurrence as a provocation aimed at bringing psychological pressure on the mission's staff and at making the conditions of their residence and activity more difficult. The note contains a demand that the U.S. side take essential measures to prevent such actions in the future, to increase the security of the mission's staff and of members of their families, and to identify and severely punish those who are guilty.

DEMICHEV TALKS WITH VISITING U.S. YOUTH 10 AUG

LD101703 Moscow TASS in English 1600 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 10 TASS -- Petr Demichev, alternate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, received in the Kremlin today a U.S. youth delegation, participants in the 15th meeting of Soviet and American young people.

The meeting opens in Kiev on August 11.

The guests said they would like to learn more about the Soviet Union and understand better the processes taking place in various areas of its life. They were interested practically in all aspects of the restructuring drive -- political, social, economic, cultural and international.

Demichev answered the questions asked by the delegation members.

He described the revolutionary character of the changes affecting all spheres of life of Soviet society, the efforts that were being applied by the party, local government bodies and all people to speed up the country's social and economic development, further deepen socialist democracy and expand openness.

Questions of bilateral relations were discussed during the conversation. It was stressed that the Soviet Union favoured the broadest dialogue with the U.S., the development of political, economic and cultural ties and the expansion of cooperation between public, including youth, organizations.

On the Soviet-American youth meeting, Demichev observed that actions of this kind were of great importance for improving understanding between peoples and youth in both countries, and helped promote peace and international security.

DEMICHEV RECEIVES 'PEACE CRUISE' PARTICIPANTS

PM061115 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Aug 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In an Atmosphere of Trust"]

[Text] On 5 August, P.N. Demichev, CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, received in the Kremlin participants in the Soviet-American peace cruise on the Volga.

This antiwar action by representatives of both countries' peace-loving public continued a tradition of joint actions aimed at strengthening mutual understanding and trust between the peoples of the USSR and the United States and rapidly ending the arms race for the sake of a nuclear-free future for our planet.

Soviet and American participants in the cruise gave their impressions and spoke about further plans for joint activity.

The Soviet Union, P.N. Demichev stressed, has always advocated and continues to advocate the development of diverse ties and contacts with the United States and the public of that country, close USSR-U.S. cooperation in resolving global problems of the present day, and collaboration to strengthen international security. Here he drew the attention of the representatives of the American peace organizations to the Soviet proposals aimed at completely eliminating nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and securing lasting peace.

The Soviet Union rates positively the results of the Volga peace cruise. Such events, it was noted at the meeting, help create an atmosphere of trust, promote among the broad masses ideas of peace and friendship among the peoples of countries with different socioeconomic systems, and set examples of joint work on behalf of the fundamental interests of mankind.

A "Volga Declaration" adopted by participants in the cruise urging a ban on nuclear weapons tests, the prevention of an arms race in space, and the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction was handed over for the Soviet leadership.

U.S. SHIPPING RULES TO HAVE 'ADVERSE EFFECT'

LD061940 Moscow TASS in English 1453 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 6 TASS -- By TASS commentator Mikhail Vladimirov:

Soviet shipping circles are no longer surprised when some U.S. legislators attempt to create new problems in international shipping. An amendment to trading legislation is currently put before the U.S. Senate, providing for a six-month ban on calls at American ports by vessels which have visited Cuba before. The authors of this amendment hope in this way to hamper the development of Cuba's foreign trade and put pressure on its trading and shipping partners.

Washington introduced such embargoes against socialist countries on more than one occasion. But they proved ineffective as American trading companies suffered in the first place. If this amendment passes, the result is most likely to be the same. Let's suppose that ships bringing supplies to Cuba from other continents cannot be loaded with American cargoes. Other vessels will have to be sent especially to carry them which, naturally, will increase shipping costs.

For example, Soviet imports from the USA needs larger tonnage that Soviet exports there. Therefore, Soviet foreign trade associations often use ships that bring freight to Central American countries, including Cuba, to transport goods purchased in the USA.

Excluding these ships from shipping will, undoubtedly, have an adverse effect on the expediency of purchasing goods in the United States which does not meet the interests of exporters in this country, who expressed on many occasions the wish to expand deliveries to the Soviet Union.

Relations between socialist countries and the USA in shipping are marked by tough discriminatory measures, as it is, which hardly benefit trade. Several decades ago the United States imposed restrictions on the calls by ships from socialist countries at American ports and banned them from calling at a number of ports, opened to vessels of third countries. Naturally, reply measures were invoked against American vessels.

KORNILOV RAPS WICK ON AIDS 'DISINFORMATION' CHARGES

PM101447 Moscow SOVSETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 7 Aug 87 Second Edition p 5

[Yu. Kornilov article: "In Shadow of AIDS -- Four Quotations and Comment on Them"]

[Excerpts] "USIA Director Charles Wick is trying to limit the Soviet-U.S. exchange program in medicine because of disinformation by the Soviets who affirm that the AIDS virus was synthesized in a secret Pentagon laboratory. According to representatives of the administration, Wick recently sent a memorandum to the State Department, in which he proposed to abolish certain sections of this program. He did not receive support from his State Department associates who believe the United States is deriving very great benefit from Soviet achievements, such as in laser surgery. Nevertheless, according to administration associates, Wick prevented more than half of the funds from private donations, amounting to $100,000, from being allocated for this purpose." (NEWSWEEK, 10 August, United States) [passage omitted]

Editorial Office note: The causes of the dreadful new disease AIDS are hitherto unclear. Scientists from various countries, including the United States, continue their research into the nature of this disease. However, as the statements cited above illustrate (and they could be increased in number without difficulty), a number of foreign specialists do not exclude the idea that the AIDS virus is the creation of human hands and that its appearance can be linked to some extent with secret research being conducted in the United States into the creation of new types of biological weapons or with the production of nuclear weapons. These suppositions, like other versions of the origins of AIDS, are becoming known to international, including Soviet, public opinion, as is completely natural.

Why, one is asked, does this fact evoke such great irritation in Mr. C. Wick, who himself, incidentally, never tires at any suitable opportunity to fight for the "free flow of information"? And why does Charles Wick attack the USSR with accusations of "disinformation" although the Soviet press on this occasion is only informing the readers about the foreign specialists' proposals and versions? Perhaps the USIA director already knows what nobody else knows -- the true causes of AIDS.

The whole point, it seems, is that the USIA leaders today as yesterday want to make use of any reason or even the semblance of a reason to once again cast a shadow on the USSR.

LIES, SLANDER 'MAIN OFFSPRING' OF U.S. 'TRUTH' PROJECT

LD151759 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1300 GMT 15 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow, 15 Aug (TASS) -- TASS Political Observer Sergey Kulik writes: It would of course be possible to forget that on 17 August 1981 the "Truth" project was endorsed -- a program of total sabotage and propaganda activies against the USSR and the countries of the socialist community -- if lies and slander, the main offspring of this project, were not poisoning international relations and impeding their normalization every day and every hour.

In their day the Washington fathers of "Truth" justified its birth by the existence in the Soviet Union of some "closed society." Today our openness and frankness in discussing domestic and foreign problems has been recognized by side circles of the foreign public, including that of the United States. The truth about the USSR, about our peaceloving desires, is becoming the property of millions of people.

At this point it becomes clear that the real truth in no way defends those who stood by the cradle of "Truth." The fact that we are reporting everything that goes on in our country and calling everything by its name -- good and bad -- evidently goes against the grain in Washington. The houses of cards built on the traditional cliches and stock phrases about the "lack" of democracy and human rights "violations" in the USSR are tumbling down. "Glasnost is a challenge to U.S. public diplomacy," acknowledged none other than USIA chief Charles Wick, which the White House has granted the main role in implementing the sordid aims of "Truth." "Moscow is suggesting a new image of openness to the world. The Soviets have gained the attention of the whole world's population!" he exclaimed in horror.

Appropriate changes in U.S. foreign policy propaganda in response to Soviet glasnost were not long in making themselves felt. It is not much to say that the system of ideological sabotage is increasingly taking on the appearance of a propaganda terror and is acquiring an ever more centralized character. It now involves all government departments, no matter what aspects of international relations they deal with. All "private" and public organizations able to strengthen so-called U.S. "vital interests" abroad and to export the U.S. way of life and Western "democratic institutions" have also been included.

At the same time, anti-Sovietism and anticommunism, as the main trends in the United States' propaganda activities have, nowadays, been transformed into a weapon of combat, not only against the countries of the socialist community, not only against all communists, but against all patriots, against all national liberation forces, against the peace movement, and against activists in the antimissile struggle. The main aim of all this propaganda sabotage is to undermine detente, to return to the "cold war," and to gain military superiority over the USSR. It is here that the road to world hegemony by the United States lies in the fantasies of U.S. reaction.

Generally, whatever hurts someone is what he talks about. As long as 6 years ago, Charles Wick and his White House masters, when they put together the false "Truth" project, were terrified by the truth about the Soviet Union, the truth about the idea of peace and socialism, of democracy and progress. That's why they're trying to suppress it. And the most vile form of suppression as is well-known is lies!

William Dorman, a California university professor of journalism, who has analyzed material on the USSR published by the United States' newspapers, agencies, and television, has come to the conclusion that "the U.S. mass media often plays the sad role of sword bearer for official Washington. The views they form encourage and justify plans for preparing for a nuclear war, which are made noble by cunning journalistic devices." In his research, the professor draws the conclusion that "lies are the scout of nuclear war."

The leaders of the propaganda machine, vast in scale, born out of "Truth" believe that information should only correspond to the interests of the military-industrial complex, even if it means misleading their own and the world public.

"Irangate" in all its unsightliness demonstrated just where lying, under cover of falsely understood "national interests," can lead. However, of late the practice of waging "psychological warfare" has "progressed" to such a degree in the United States that official departments, the administration apparatus, and even the White House have become just as much a part of the system for its secret operations as the CIA and other special departments.

In general, the truth is that in the United States, policy and propaganda go hand in hand. Their common denominator is being programmed to chase military superiority and assertion of diktat and force in international relations. Across the ocean they talk about military preparations as if it was an everyday matter -- like a game of football let's say -- and in all seriousness they play out various scenarios for achieving absolute victory: Military, economic, technological, and, finally, ideological. The justification for all these misanthropic plans is lying mixed with anti-Sovietism. Washington has never thought of honest competition on equal terms in the ideological sphere. Of course, they sometimes change their spots and play at "being peaceloving." In fact, they obstinately continue to pursue their confrontational path in the belief that in the contemporary complex world they have the monopoly on political and military license.

And "Truth" has by no means the least role to play in Washington's dangerous march along this path.

U.S. DIPLOMATS USE LIGHT AIRCRAFT FOR 'ESPIONAGE'

PM131241 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 87 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Unseemly Activity"]

[Text] Washington, 12 Aug -- The U.S. State Department is actively cooperating with the U.S. special services in intelligence gathering, UPI reports. It cites cases of large-scale intelligence operations carried out by staffers at U.S. diplomatic missions using the light aircraft they employ to make trips around the countries to which they are accredited.

As administration spokesman told a UPI correspondent, the aircraft used by U.S. diplomats for making trips around certain countries, mainly in the world's "trouble spots," are equipped with highly sensitive devices for eavesdropping on radio conversations and apparatus for photographing installations of interest to U.S. espionage departments. These are principally armaments plants, radar facilities, and the "strongholds of rebel movements."

As UPI points out, light aircraft fitted with espionage equipment are at the disposition of the U.S. Embassies in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, other Near East countries, and "probably in Pakistan." An unnamed specialist in intelligence gathering told the UPI correspondent that espionage carried out by State Department aircraft "is considered particularly suitable where American diplomats are accredited to several countries simultaneously." Even such a "reliable" strategic partner of the United States as Israel has been the object of espionage.

CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MESSAGE GREETS U.S. COMMUNISTS

PM141757 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Aug 87 Second Edition p 1

[CPSU Central Committee greetings message to 24th Communist Party of United States National Congress]

[Text] To the 24th Communist Party of the United States [CPUSA] National Congress

Dear Comrades!

The CPSU Central Committee cordially greets the delegates to the 24th CPUSA National Congress and wishes it successful work.

Soviet and American Communists are linked by fraternal feelings. Their source and mainstay are ideological unity, mutual respect, and commonality of aims -- peace, social progress, and a better future for mankind.

Your congress is taking place at a complex, contradictory time. The continuing nuclear arms race and the plans to spread it into space threaten the very existence of life on earth. At the same time, there is growing understanding of this danger, creating a basis for movement toward a nuclear-free, nonviolent world. Real opportunities have emerged for taking the first major steps on this path. But time does not wait, and the pace of the arms race is increasing. This is why politics and negotiations need to be accelerated to block and reverse this race and deflect the nuclear threat.

Our peoples possess tremendous potential -- technical and economic, political and humanist. Their contribution to historical development is of great significance for the destiny of peace. In the nuclear age the influence of national decisions -- particularly Soviet and U.S. decisions -- on determining the future of all civilization has increased sharply, above all in the military sphere, where the price of a mistake or a miscalculation is an irreparable catastrophe. This places unusual responsibility on our countries' peoples and politicians and commits the United States and the Soviet Union to reasonable, civilized behavior in the international arena. What is needed now is new approaches, including to Soviet-U.S. relations, and new thinking proceeding from the premise that ensuring security is not a military but a political task and that U.S. and Soviet security can only be mutual and, if we take international relations as a whole, only universal.

And universal security means unconditional respect in international practice for the right of every people to possess freedom and independence and to make a sovereign choice of the paths and forms of its development, and the inadmissibility of imperialist diktat and interference in other peoples' internal affairs, however they are disguised.

The realities of the world today require the protection of national interests to be closely combined with understanding of general human interests. The CPSU does not separate its international aims from its concern for improving the life and well-being of the Soviet people. We do not hide the fact that peace is a necessary condition for successfully implementing the impressive plans for restructuring within the country. This is the living link between our foreign and domestic policy. We see social justice and national equality as the first principle of democracy in our society and as the cornerstone of harmonious interstate relations.

Our country's peoples, who carried out the Great October Socialist Revolution, have traveled the hard but glorious 70-year path of pioneers of social reconstruction. Now, following the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum and the 27th congress, a historic new stage has arrived in the life of our party and country -- the stage of the revolutionary renewal of Soviet society. We express the thrust of the qualitative transformations that have now begun under the CPSU's leadership in this formula: "More democracy, more socialism." Soviet people are united in their support for the policy of restructuring, glasnost, and acceleration.

The CPSU invariably adheres to positions of comradely solidarity with the CPUSA. Soviet Communists value highly your party's efforts aimed at defending the interests of the American working class and of all the country's working people and rallying the people's forces in the struggle against imperialism and reaction, against racial and social discrimination. In this struggle the CPUSA acts as a truly national force, while at the same time making its contribution and all the planet's progressive and democratic forces.

We wish you successes on this path.

We send best wishes to all Americans of goodwill who advocate the organization of relations of good-neighborliness and cooperation between the USSR and the United States.

May the cause of peace throughout the world triumph!

The CPSU Central Committee

ROGACHEV, PRC'S WU XUEQIAN HOLD BEIJING TALKS

LD171214 Moscow TASS in English 1202 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Beijing August 17 TASS -- Igor Rogachev, deputy foreign minister of the USSR who heads the Soviet Government delegation now in Beijing in conjunction with the Soviet-Chinese talks on border issues, was received today by Wu Xueqian, member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, foreign minister of the People's Republic of China.

The Soviet side clarified the new peace initiatives launched by Mikhail Gorbachev in the interview with the Indonesian newspaper "MERKEDA". Wu Xueqian said that the statement by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee on eliminating all intermediate-range missiles in the Asian part of the USSR was evaluated positively in China and expressed the wish that the USSR and the United States reach an agreement on this issue within the shortest possible time and eventually pass over the arrangements on other types of the nuclear arsenal.

The sides expressed the conviction that the settlement of the border issues between the Soviet Union and China and the turning of the Soviet-Chinese border into a strip of friendship and goodneighbourliness would be of major significance to both countries as well as to peace in Asia and all over the world.

They regard as useful the exchange of views on the running of the line of the state border between the USSR and the People's Republic of China in its eastern part, which was held during the just-ended round of the Soviet-Chinese talks on border issues.

Oleg Troyanovskiy, ambassador of the USSR to the People's Republic of China, took part in the talk.

PRC OFFICIAL ON U.S. TRADE 'DISCRIMINATION'

LD171428 Moscow TASS in English 1352 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Beijing August 17 TASS -- For a successful development of trade and economic relations between China and the USA, it is necessary that the United States, the U.S. Congress should realise the importance of broadening Chinese exports to the USA and regulating its policy on that issue. A statement to this effect was made today at the Chinese-American seminar on legal aspects of bilateral trade and investment by Zhang Jinfu, member of the PRC Council of State.

He pointed out that on the whole the results of cooperation between the two countries were not bad, but at the same time stressed that the USA should give up its discriminatory attitude to Chinese products, articificial restrictions on turning over modern U.S. technology to China to remove the obstacles in the way of further development of U.S.-Chinese cooperation.

PRC PARLIAMENTARIANS VISIT SUPREME, MOSCOW SOVIETS

PM171329 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Aug 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Delegation Arrival"]

[Text] A delegation from the Chinese National People's Congress [NPC] Nationalities Committee headed by Yu Weng, member of the NPC Standing Committee and deputy chairman of the committee, has arrived in Moscow at the invitation of the commissions of the houses of the USSR Supreme Soviet. On 14 August the delegation paid a visit to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

L.N. Tolkunov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, welcomed the visitors. He talked to the parliamentarians about the role of the soviets in the international education of working people and about the reflection of the nationalities question in the activity of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The need to strengthen developing Soviet-Chinese parliamentary ties was stressed.

USSR Supreme Soviet deputies N.I. Maslennikov, K. Turysov, and M.Yu. Yusupov, other officials, and also Li Fenglin, PRC charge d'affaires ad interim in the USSR, took part in the conversation.

On the same day the delegation visited the Moscow City Soviet. Ispolkom Chairman V.T. Saykin familiarized the Chinese representative with the way in which the Soviet capital's working people are working on implementing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and worthily preparing themselves to meet the 70th anniversary of Great October.

PRC'S NPC DELEGATION VISITS LENINGRAD, RIGA

OW170915 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] At the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Chinese NPC delegation is continuing its visit to our country. After visiting Leningrad, Yu Wen, member of the Standing Committee and vice chairman of the Nationalities Committee of the NPC who heads the delegation, told Soviet reporters: Our visit to the Soviet Union would not be complete if we did not sightsee in Leningrad. Leningrad is the cradle of the October Revolution. About 70 years ago, it was precisely from this city that the roar of guns aboard the cruiser Avrora awakened the world's people and illuminated the course of revolution for the Chinese people.

The head of the Chinese NPC delegation wished the residents of Leningrad every success in carrying out their splendid construction plan and proposed that the friendly ties and cooperation between the Soviet and Chinese peoples be actively developed.

On 16 August, the Chinese NPC delegation left Leningrad and arrived in Riga City, capital of the Republic of Latvia, on the Baltic Sea coast.

MOSCOW KOREAN ON WORKERS' STRIKES IN SOUTH KOREA

SK172331 Moscow International Service in Korean 0930 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] According to reports from Seoul, tens of thousands of South Korean workers in leading economic sectors, including 240 plants and enterprises, recently staged unprecedentedly large-scale strikes. In this connection, commentator Viktorov has written the following: Reports on the South KOrean situation remind us of a (?mass movement. This is no accident. Class confrontation between the capitalists and the workers in South Korea has become more serious.

Workers' strikes in South Korea number more than 100. Today, the car manufacturing industry is completely paralyzed and a number of shipbuilding plants, mines, transportation companies, chemical plants and machine tool plants were closed. These constitute major sectors of the South Korean economy.

What are the reasons for the workers' struggle? According to Seoul authorities, the reasons are quite simple: The participants in the strikes are attempting to create social and economic disorder and their acts are illegal. They thus present preposterous assertions. The workers cannot expect anything from authorities who only support the owners of the plants and enterprises.

In addition, South Korean workers today can no longer remain patient, as in the past. In other words, they have refused to receive the small wages paid for their long arduous labor, even risking their lives. Many South Korean enterprises lack safety measures for workers. By organizing labor unions, South Korean workers want to reflect their earnest desires, instead of merely submissively following the orders of the enterprise owners.

Thus, the South Korean people demand improved working conditions, increased wages, and the right to organize labor unions. The characteristic nature of the current workers' strikes is that their economic, social, and political demands are closely linked with one another. Such strikes are being staged amid slogans about resignation of the pro-U.S. antinational regime, withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea, implementation of fair democratic elections, and civil rights and autonomy for residents.

The South Korean workers' struggle is supported by the people of other social domains in this country. Their struggle is supported by the students, who have traditionally taken the initiative in the antigovernment movement. According to a UPI report, several thousand Catholics shouted slogans supporting the demands of the workers and upheld placards reading "The U.S. imperialists should withdraw from South Korea!" and "Let us overthrow the military dictatorship which represses the workers!" As they came out of the cathedral and advanced toward the center of the town, approximately 1,500 policemen, equipped with the means to disperse demonstrations, blocked their march and fired teargas.

Oppression, terrorism, handcuffs, and clubs are devices openly used by authorities to deal with the South Korean people who demand social reform. However, repression of the just struggle of the people in this nation has become more difficult with each passing day because the workers' awareness and determination to accomplish their just demands has grown fierce.

The South Korea workers' struggle is not isolated. It is supported by democratic opposition forces at home and abroad.

The International Metal Workers Federation headquartered in Geneva has raised voices supporting the South Korean workers' strikes. Herman Rebhan, secretary general of this union, which embraces approximately 14 million workers from 70 countries around the world, stated that their demands for work hours worthy of men, fair wages, and the ensurance of the workers' acknowledged rights are supported by all members of the Union.

Thus, the acute political crisis facing the Chon Tu-hwan regime has become more serious due to such powerful workers' strikes.

JAPAN DEPLOYING 'HEAVY ARMS' FOR U.S. TROOPS USE

LD170916 Moscow TASS in English 0902 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Tokyo August 17 TASS -- Under an agreement with the Pentagon, Japan's National Defense Agency has launched preparations for deploying heavy armaments and military equipment for U.S. land forces and Marines in the territory of Japan. They are intended for the use by U.S. troops following their deployment in Japan in case of an "emergency".

Heavy armaments for U.S. troops are already in place in the territories of the NATO West European countries. Now the Pentagon intends to spread this experience to its Far Eastern ally. During the large-scale manoeuvres in the north of Japan last autumn, the United States already practised this variant of the "rapid deployment" of its troops in Japanese territory. Large units of U.S. troops were moved to the Hokkaido Island where military hardware, vehicles and purpose-built equipment were in place at depots specially built for them in advance.

U.S. AIR FORCE FOREGOES TOSHIBA COMPUTERS

LD131343 Moscow TASS in English 1030 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] Tokyo August 13 TASS -- The U.S. Air Force has given up its intention to purchase portable computers of the Toshiba company. The decision has been taken to turn over that order to the U.S. Zenith Corporation. Thus Toshiba has lost a 100 million dollar worth contract. The Pentagon's decision is a fresh blow to the company, which the USA accused of violating the restrictions imposed by the Coordinating Committee on Control of Exports to the Socialist Countries (COCOM). Earlier the Pentagon announced a freeze on all of its contracts with Toshiba and prohibited the U.S. servicemen to purchase the products of that leading Japanese electrical-engineering corporation.

An official spokesman for the Pentagon claimed, however, that the renunciation of the contract with Toshiba was not linked with accusations against the company. It is known, however, that the group of influential congressmen urged the U.S. Defence Department to give up all trade operations with that company. Besides a bill has been tabled in Congress fully prohibiting the import of Toshiba products to the USA.

Commenting on the Pentagon's decision, the spokesman for the Toshiba Corporation stressed in Tokyo that the firm believes its computers to be the best among the products of other firms which vied with it for securing the contract. As the KYODO TSUSHIN agency said, the portable personal computer T-3100 contains an advanced video-display system on gas plasma and the latest powerful microprocessors.

As far as the computer of the Zenith Company is concerned, use is made in it of a video-display on liquid crystals, while its microprocessors are less powerful than Toshiba.

This, the KYODO TSUSHIN agency said, raises the serious question that the Pentagon's decision is a fresh "punishment" for Toshiba's supply of milling machines to the Soviet Union. The Japanese press says that recent days have witnessed a fresh wave of the anti-Japanese campaign in the USA. Several days ago reports appeared to the effect that the Pentagon suspects a whole number of other companies maintaining trade and economic ties with the socialist countries.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SETS UP JAPAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

OW150305 Tokyo KYODO in English 0250 GMT 15 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 15 KYODO -- The Soviet Foreign Ministry has set up a Department of Japanese Affairs under the newly established bureau of countries of the Pacific Ocean and Southeast Asia, Japanese Embassy sources in Moscow said Friday.

The Department of Countries of the Pacific, which was previously in charge of Japanese affairs, and the Department of Countries of Southeast Asia have been integrated into the new bureau.

1. Chizhov, the former chief of the Department of Countries of the Pacific who is known as an authority on Japan, has been assigned to head the new bureau and V. Alekseyev has become chief of the Department of Japanese Affairs, the sources said.

According to the sources, the structural reform of the Soviet Foreign Ministry does not necessarily mean the ministry is attaching more importance to its policy toward Japan.

USSR, JAPANESE DELEGATIONS DISCUSS UN AGENDA

LD141334 Moscow TASS in English 1315 GMT 14 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 14 TASS -- Soviet-Japanese consultations on international issues relating to the agenda of the forthcoming 42nd session of the U.S. General Assembly have been held at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The head of the Japanese delegation, N. Nakahira, was received by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy.

PRAVDA COMMENTS ON SRV, INDONESIAN CAMBODIAN PLAN

PM140945 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Aug 87 Second Edition p 5

[Boris Barakhta "Commentator's Column": "A New Initiative"]

[Text] Vietnam and Indonesia have put forward a joint initiative whose implementation could pave the way for the settlement of the Cambodian problem. During the recent bilateral talks in Hanoi at foreign ministerial level an accord was reached on holding an unofficial meeting of representatives of the PRK and opposing Khmer groupings.

As is known, for some years now the Cambodian problem that exists in the region has been having an adverse effect on the situation in Southeast Asia and in the world in general. Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia are consistently advocating the establishment of lasting peace and an atmosphere of stability, good-neighborliness, and cooperation in Southeast Asia. The three fraternal Indochinese states have repeatedly put forward constructive proposals and come up with positive initiatives aimed at solving existing questions at the negotiating table, not on the battlefield. Suffice it to recall in this connection, for example, the purposeful efforts by Hanoi, Vientiane, and Phnom Penh to arrange a dialogue with the ASEAN states.

The recent Vietnamese-Indonesian talks convincingly demonstrate that there is a growing awareness in the region of the need to solve the Cambodian problem by political means. The Vietnamese-Indonesian joint initiative is a true reflection of this process.

Unfortunately, in Southeast Asia and beyond there are forces who oppose the emergent trend toward national reconciliation in Cambodia. It is clear that given goodwill and in conjunction with efforts to strengthen peace and stability in Southeast Asia, it is perfectly possible to find a mutually acceptable solution to the existing questions and to eliminate the mistrust and suspicion.

At the same time, it is believed in the capitals of the three fraternal Indochinese states, the Cambodian problem cannot be viewed in isolation from the situation in the region, above all in the PRK itself. An irreversible process of national rebirth and building of the foundations of a new life, literally from scratch, is taking place in the PRK at the moment. The Khmer people are the true masters of their country. Their armed forces have taken on the task of protecting the homeland's sovereignty. A specific deadline has been named for the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers -- 1990 -- and without doubt it will be observed. Many states have recognized the government in Phnom Penh and have normal relations with it. In short, these substantial realities of the PRK's domestic and foreign policy are obvious and they cannot be discounted.

This throws into bolder relief the main trend of the Hanoi talks. The idea of national consensus is establishing itself slowly but surely. Dialogue must prevail over confrontation.

PRK FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS REGIONAL ISSUES

PM131531 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Interview with PRK Foreign Minister Kong Korm by IZVESTIYA correspondent B. Vinogradov in Phnom Penh: "Cambodia: Peace and Stability Are the Main Objective" -- no date of interview given; first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction]

[Text] PRK Foreign Minister Kong Korm gave an interview to IZVESTIYA correspondent B. Vinogradov on questions concerning the main directions of the country's foreign policy course.

The PRK Government, the minister said, consistently advocates normalization of the situation in Southeast Asia, making its contribution toward transforming this region into a zone of peace, good-neighborliness, and cooperation. Our country's peace-loving course has won it the international public's growing respect. Successfully countering the gross encroachments on Cambodia's vital interests by reactionary forces, our people are strengthening in every way the relations of friendship and cooperation with Vietnam, the Soviet Union, Laos, the other fraternal socialist countries, and all peace-loving states in the world.

We ardently support the Delhi Declaration calling for struggle for a world free from nuclear weapons and violence, as well as the Soviet Union's idea of creating an all-embracing collective security system in the Asian and Pacific region, put forward by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in Vladivostok. The need to solve questions of a regional settlement is one of the main avenues of progress toward this most important goal. This part of the suggested program directly affects Cambodia.

Therefore, would like to say the following: Prompted by a sense of goodwill and responsibility for the country's future, the KPRP and the PRK Government made a principled decision to adopt a course of political settlement of the Cambodia problem via national reconciliation. To this end they are prepared to embark on a dialogue with all opposing groupings and their leaders, except Pol Pot and his closest associates, who are guilty of the gravest crimes against their own people. There is not and there should be no place for them in the process of national reconciliation.

There is also the external aspect of the settlement. It consists of fulfillment of the accord between the PRK and the SRV on the stage-by-stage withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers. At the same time, there must be a cessation of all support for Pol Pot's and other reactionary groupings engaging in armed attacks against Cambodia. This is the only way to ensure security in the region and reach agreement on creating a zone of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. A constructive basis for solving the region's problems exists -- it is the proposal by the three Indochina countries, reaffirmed at the latest conference of the foreign ministers of Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos.

But such a development of events does not suit the opponents of stabilization. They would rather have tension. The U.S. imperialists are banking on Pol Pot's gangs entrenched in Thailand. [paragraph continues]

Striving in vain to deflect our country from its chosen path and to hinder Cambodia's peaceful development, Washington is supplying the gangs with weapons and ammunition and is organizing and directing their subversive activity against the PRK's civilian population. The situation along the Cambodia-Thailand border has remained explosive for 9 years now. Reactionaries are attempting to carry out aggressive raids deep inside Cambodia from Thai territory and with the support of the Thai Army.

Striving to improve relations with Thailand and the other ASEAN countries, the PRK Government points out that only the path of talks is possible here, without any interference in one another's internal affairs. We have repeatedly approached Bangkok with constructive proposals aimed at creating a security zone along the border between our countries. We also express permanent readiness to start talks on solving the Cambodian refugee problem. But our neighbors not only have failed to respond positively to these proposals, but are continuing to step up activities hostile toward Cambodia.

In today's international situation, Kong Korm went on to note, particular importance attaches to further rallying all peace-loving forces, the immediate activation of their efforts in the struggle to eliminate the threat of nuclear war, strengthening international security, and guaranteeing the peoples' right to self-determination, independence, and social progress.

During the visit by USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze to Cambodia we expressed belief that the implementation of the Soviet initiatives on fundamental problems of disarmament would result in substantial positive changes in the situation all over the world and would free mankind from the threat of nuclear and chemical annihilation.

Our government also welcomes and supports the USSR's new initiatives, which constitute a further development of the Far East program of struggle for peace and security on the basis of joint efforts by all states situated in the Asian and Pacific region. There is no doubt that the implementation of these proposals would lay permanent foundations for the maintenance of peace and cooperation between peoples. We perceive the policy of national reconciliation proclaimed by the PRK Government as our contribution toward the implementation of this program.

LAO'S PHOMVIHAN ARRIVES IN TASHKENT 11 AUGUST

NC171420 Tashkent Domestic Service in Uzbek 1600 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Kayson Phomvihan, secretary general of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, visited Tashkent today. He is currently vacationing in the Soviet Union. The esteemed guest and his entourage were welcomed at Tashkent airport by Comrade (?Kholmakhamadov), secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee. Kayson Phomvihan traveled to the Tashkent television tower from which he had a view of the Uzbek capital. He later visited the scientific viticulture production union named after [name indistinct].

NIKOLSKIY DELEGATION MEETS SEYCHELLES PARTY LEADER

PM171117 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Aug 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report under general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] Antananarivo, 14 Aug -- The CPSU delegation headed by B.V. Nikolskiy, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and second secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, which is visiting the Republic of Seychelles at the invitation of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front Central Committee, has had meetings with James Michel, deputy general secretary of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front, and members of the party Central Committee. Questions concerning the development of interparty ties were discussed in the course of the meetings.

SYTENKO DISCUSSES GULF, MIDDLE EAST ISSUES

JN111410 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 7 Aug 87 pp 22-24

[Interview with Mikhail Sytenko, identified as Soviet deputy foreign minister, by Sana' al-Sa'id in Moscow -- date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] The U.S. rejection of Gorbachev's proposal for holding bilateral negotiations on the Iraq-Iran war is based on the argument that the United Nations is the suitable forum to deal with the Gulf conflict. This rejection has been viewed s a sign of mistrust in the Soviet Union. It has also been seen as an indication that the United States is reluctant to deal with the USSR in order not to legitimize its presence in the Gulf. In your view, following the Security Council resolution on the Gulf war, how can safety and stability be established in the Gulf?

[Sytenko] We hold consultations with the U.S. side all issues, including the current Gulf developments. In this context, the Soviet Union has on more than one occasion demanded the withdrawal of foreign fleets from the region, given the fact that military means cannot help to solve the problem. On the contrary, military moves there will escalate tension and instability in the region. It is impossible to predict the results of such moves in terms of the inherent threat not only to the Gulf region but to the world at large. We continue to call for the withdrawal of foreign naval forces. This call applies to all, not only to the United States. We will withdraw our naval forces together. We are certain that if the foreign powers withdraw their naval forces from this region, they will give the states there an opportunity to solve their problems on their own.

[Al-Sa'id] But Kuwait was the state which requested a U.S. escort for its ships. This led to the involvement of the United States and the USSR in the manner we see now.

[Sytenko] Kuwait has requested this but the Soviet reaction differed from the U.S. reaction. While we proposed transferring the cargo to our ships, the Americans transformed half of the Kuwaiti fleet into U.S. ships. This helped provoke Iran and any mistake or misunderstanding might lead to a military confrontation. Despite all this, and despite the fact that the U.S. military moves have created a basis for provocations, the United States is blaming other parties for the tension and the escalation of the situation in the region.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you agree with those who say that with its current moves in the Gulf the United States has abrogated the UN resolution which calls on all countries concerned, including Iraq and Iran, not to carry out any actions that may exacerbate the conflict?

[Sytenko] Unfortunately, this is what has taken place. It is very difficult to comprehend this U.S. stand which entails grave consequences. It is useful for the United States to exert efforts to attain a unanimous resolution in the UN Security Council calling on the parties to the dispute to end the fighting. However, the second aspect of the U.S. stand consists of the increase in the U.S. military presence in the Gulf, particularly since the United States has begun to mobilize its forces in the Gulf without even having any serious, actual, or direct signs of an Iranian effort to attack Arab oil tankers. What is currently taking place in the Gulf is not commensurate with the U.S. military moves. The danger stems from a position where Iran is portrayed as rejecting the UN Security Council resolution while the United States continues to mass its troops in the region. Any evil instigator could provoke the Iranian or U.S. side to deliver a blow that could lead to a confrontation, particularly in light of the current tension in the region. Any mistake could lead to direct U.S. military involvement, especially since there are explicit instructions from the U.S. Administration to immediately strike if it is suspicious about the other side's moves. The Stark incident is not that distant nor is the incident of the Bridgeton hitting a mine. These incidents could have led to some kind of confrontation.

[Al-Sa'id] This means the U.S. military presence has not achieved the objective for which it has taken place: protecting Gulf security?

[Sytenko] The opposite is taking place. They claim they are in the Gulf to protect security but their presence exacerbates the situation. The USSR has assessed what is taking place there. That's why the USSR called for the withdrawal of all foreign fleets. By doing this, the USSR has demonstrated farsightedness.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean the United States is undertaking an unwise adventure whose consequences cannot be predicted?

[Sytenko] I do not say this is an adventure whose consequences are unpredictable. I can only say that U.S. policy, which is based on the fact that the United States has vital national interests in all parts of the world, including the Gulf region, is responsible for the emergence of such situations. The danger of such a policy is that it could lead to interference in the domestic affairs of any country in any area of the world. If this occurs, then one asks: Where is the international justice and international law that the United States and the Western world have spoken of so often? The Western world, which speaks a lot about human rights and peoples rights, must realize what the United States is doing.

[Al-Sa'id] Could the U.S. show of force in the Gulf lead to the USSR's antagonization?

[Sytenko] I do not call it antagonization, but a feeling of dissatisfaction because we are calling for leaving the Gulf entirely alone. Why should there be any fear of Soviet penetration when such penetration does not exist in the first place?

While the USSR has taken the initiative and called for the simultaneous withdrawal of all foreign fleets from the region, the United States wants us to leave the region first, then follow.

Our policy is clear and straightforward. We do not calculate our policy at the expense of others. We have begun to improve our relations with Egypt. However, while doing so we have not asked Egypt that such an improvement be at the expense of its relationship with the Americans or any other country. We call only for improvement in relations on the bilateral level, not at the expense of any other country. Therefore, it is unrealistic to talk about Soviet penetration when our naval presence in the Gulf is nothing compared to the U.S. presence.

[Al-Sa'id] Let us go back to U.S. military movements in the Gulf. Some people say this U.S. movement is an attempt by the United States to regain the influence it lost after Irangate. Do you agree with this theory?

[Sytenko] Some people may analyze the situation in this manner, but as far as I am concerned I do not think these movements will erase the effects of Irangate. On the contrary, the movements might backfire. We have already warned of this.

[Al-Sa'id] How would you follow up the resolution which was unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council on 20 July and, could the USSR cooperate with the United States in passing a resolution imposing an arms embargo on Iran after it has rejected the UN resolution?

[Sytenko] I believe it is still premature to predict what the real Iranian reaction will be. True, there is open rejection by certain Iranian officials, but the real, practical reaction of both warring parties in the Gulf will become clear later. We must not forget that contacts are still underway with both sides and that the UN secretary general is contacting both Iraq and Iran and will submit a report. It is only then that the real stands will be determined. Personally, however, I believe the arms embargo resolution would face many difficulties and there might even be an objection to its issuance in the first place. The difficulties will be on how to impose and apply the sanctions and the conflicting viewpoints of the parties cocnerned on whether it is possible to apply the sanctions. The South African example is still vivid. Sanctions were approved against South Africa, yet it avoided them. Therefore, it is difficult to predict the next step if a sanctions resolution is passed against either side.

[Al-Said] This implies that an arms embargo resolution would be difficult to carry due to the impracticality of the sanctions?

[Sytenko] This is possible, but it might not be the actual situation. We are only considering this possibility because of past experiences in this respect such as South Africa.

[Al-Sa'id] At any rate, there is fear the USSR and the PRC might reject such a resolution?

[Sytenko] There is no need to predict stands at this time. The situation keeps changing with developments. As for the USSR, no one can accuse us of supplying arms to Iran. In fact, the Irangate arms deal has demonstrated that Iran had and continues to have various sources of arms. The deal has revealed that those who accused others of supplying arms to Iran were themselves supplying these arms.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the fact that it is being said Iran has a far more important status in the region for the Soviet Union? And what about what is being said about continuous Iranian attempts to boost its relations with you, most recent of which is the attempt to transport Iranian oil through the Black Sea?

[Sytenko] What can be said is that Iran is a neighboring country. We have always been interested in seeking good relations. You know that during the Shah's regime we had good commercial and economic relations. Our economic and trade exchange relations are continuing. We believe these relations can be stronger in the interest of the two countries.

[Al-Sa'id] What about Iraq and your arms supplies to them, especially after they announced support for the recent UN Security Council resolution of 20 July?

[Sytenko] First, the issue of sanctions has not been raised yet. Second, there is a treaty of friendship and cooperation between us and Iraq. There are also other earlier commitments. We fulfill our commitments. This does not apply to Iraq only, but includes any state to which we are bound by commitments.

[Al-Sa'id] On the level of the Arab-Israeli dispute, what is your view toward the alternatives posed by Mr Shamir during his recent talks with Mr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid in Israel -- alternatives which center on convening a mini-conference comprising Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the United States, and non-PLO Palestinians?

[Sytenko] Israel's stand here is unrealistic, even if it has been confined to the theoretical field. I wonder how such a mini-conference can be concluded and if concluded, it will not lead to the stability to which we aspire. On the contrary, it will exacerbate the situation and lead to instability because it will leave many issues out of the discussion. One might wonder what the situation would be in the Golan in light of such conference. What would the Palestinian situation be? The Israeli alternative is unrealistic and bad because it will entrench the state of no solution and instability. What we need are collective efforts that include all concerned parties. These efforts can be carried out within an effective, active international conference in which all concerned parties participate directly, including the PLO and Israel, and the UN Security Council permanent member states. When I talk about an international conference I mean a genuine conference which is not a mere ceremonial framework or an umbrella full of loopholes.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the idea of direct, bilateral negotiations?

[Sytenko] We believe that if an international conference is convened all parties will sit at the negotiating table face to face. This means it will be direct negotiations without mediators to discuss all issues including bilateral negotiations. However, we should not forget that there are issues of a common nature which cannot be included within the framework of direct negotiations such as the issues of the territories and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territories occupied in 1967.

This also includes the guarantees for any settlement to be agreed upon as well as the destiny of Jerusalem. Naturally, the international conference will be able to set up committees or bilateral working groups to discuss the details which concern any two parties.

At this conference no one will impose his opinion on any party. There must be a balance of interests between the two parties. This is the kind of conference to which we aspire and which we seek to convene.

[Al-Sa'id] Does your concept of a real international conference comprise granting it the prerogative to make decisions?

[Sytenko] Of course. Is there any international conference that does not have such prerogatives? The international conference must be allowed to make decisions. It is true that the international conference does not bind any party and cannot impose a state of affairs on it. However, it must enjoy the authority to make decisions. Otherwise, it will be merely a ceremonial function or a caricature.

[Al-Sa'id] What about Palestinian representation at the conference? This is the most important problem, particularly since the United States supports Israel in not accepting the PLO as a partner in the talks. What is the Soviet stand? Can the Palestinians participate with an independent delegation or within a joint delegation?

[Sytenko] Much is being said, particularly in the West, about the necessity to settle any problem in accordance with justice and right. Here I wonder: Does not the infringement of Palestinian rights constitute a violation of the principle of justice and right? The disavowal of the Palestinian people's right to an independent state conflicts with the principle of justice. That is why I would like to say here: Let them have their state first, then let them define its nature at a later stage -- an independent state, a state that will be part of a confederated union with Jordan, or any other form the Palestinians want. This concerns them alone. They have a right to a state. When we speak about the Palestinian people, we must acknowledge their right to participate in the conference independently or in an independent delegation if they so wish, especially since the majority of international movements, including the Nonaligned Movement, have recognized the PLO as a legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Therefore, no form of participation in any international conference should be imposed on the PLO. The Palestinians must make their own decisions. If they want to participate with a separate delegation, then let them do so. The same applies if they want to participate with an Arab or Jordanian delegation. We are against imposing any specific framework on them.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you still sympathize with the PLO's rejection of UN Security Council Resolution No 242 on the basis that it does not recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination? Can they not be asked to recognize this resolution, especially since it is a condition they have to fulfill if they want to participate in any peace talks?

[Sytenko] First, we are not making demands. The USSR recognizes Resolution No 242. At the same time, we understand the stand espoused by the Palestinians when they say that this resolution makes no reference to the Palestinian people's national rights.

If the international conference convenes, this issue must be discussed. However, we cannot ask the PLO to recognize the resolution in advance and prior to its participation in the conference. Therefore, we are facing an unreasonable stand. While Israel does not want to recognize the PLO, it calls on it to recognize Resolution No 242. We would understand Israel'e stand if there were simultaneous recognition by the PLO and Israel. If this were to happen, then Israel's demand would be seen as reasonable and logical.

[Al-Sa'id] Regarding the international conference and the USSR's participation in it, do you see any possibility of the USSR resuming relations with Israel now as a precondition for participating in the international conference? Or do you believe in holding the international conference and normalizing relations between the countries of the region first before resuming the relations?

[Sytenko] Israel has always announced that it does not accept preconditions. So how can it forbid others what it approves for itself? It is seeking to impose conditions on many states. This is perverse logic.

We once voted for the establishment of the State of Israel out of belief that every people has a right to establish a state, determine its own destiny, and choose a suitable social system. Up to now, we have not objected to the continued existence of the State of Israel. However, we object to this state's policy of aggression and expansion. We object to Israel's present logic of usurping and torpedoing the right of a people to establish its state and to determine its own destiny. How can Israel, which one day called for the right to establish a state for the Jewish people, withhold the same right from the Palestinian people? This is what we are objecting to. We severed our relations with Israel because of that. We are not against the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel. But we first want to remove the causes that led to that step, and these causes still exist today. Therefore, I say: We are ready to resume relations with Israel on the condition that it takes place within the framework of a process to achieve a settlement in the Middle East.

[Al-Sa'id] U.S. Secretary of State Shultz said recently that the USSR deserves a seat at the negotiating table if it gives better treatment to Soviet Jews, allows anyone to emigrate who wants to, and restores full diplomatic relations with Israel.

[Sytenko] I will respond to your question with another question: What would the U.S. reaction be if we in turn had set such a stand as a precondition concerning their relations with certain Arab states? If we were to do that, they would have said: We do not accept preconditions on a matter affecting our sovereignty. Therefore, I say: Why do they set preconditions for others when they know in advance that they are violations of sovereignty and that others cannot accept them?

[Al-Sa'id] Can one talk about the possibility of the two superpowers cooperating in finding a solution to two major issues in the Middle East -- namely, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraq-Iran war?

[Sytenko] First, we stick to the logic that nothing is constant. Everything changes, including stands and events. Therefore, we hope to remove U.S. suspicion about the USSR and its intentions, especially since there is no basis for this suspicion and caution. Our behavior does not justify the crisis of confidence aroused by the United States. They always talk about the Soviet threat. I ask: Do you see it? One single example, such as the USSR's repeated calls for the achievement of disarmament, is sufficient to refute U.S. claims about the Soviet danger to the world. Where is the real danger? The USSR has proposed the liquidation of medium-range missiles in Europe. We also approved the NATO decision in this respect, provided the withdrawal is mutual; in other words, our withdrawal of SS-20 missiles in return for the withdrawal of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles.

In Reykjavik, we first made the concession not to include the French and British nuclear arsenals on the condition that the liquidation would take place within the framework of a single package, including medium-range and tactical missiles as well as the subject of the militarization of outer space. Here we were accused of our proposal leading to the failure to reach a solution on this subject.

We then agreed to the mutual zero option provided we were allowed to retain 100 nuclear warheads in the east in return for the United States retaining 100 nuclear warheads there. Here we were also accused of obstructing a solution on this subject. They called for the need to remove the 100 nuclear warheads, although at the time we explained the reason for retaining them which is to face the U.S. nuclear warheads in the Philippines, Japan, and Diego Garcia.

Then came the new Gorbachev proposal a few days ago on the comprehensive zero option. Under this proposal, we agreed to the liquidation of medium-range missiles in Asia. However, there are still differences with the U.S. viewpoint concerning 72 self-propelled Pershings in West Germany. The USSR insists that these missiles should be included in the agreement, while the United States says they should be excluded from any agreement. The United States claims the missile systems belong to West Germany, not to the United States, and that only the nuclear warheads belong to the United States. We are talking about nuclear warheads, not systems. Therefore, we cannot agree to the retention of these missiles. Their retention would be a blatant violation of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty which West Germany signed. The many concessions which the USSR has made in the disarmament field are evident of its good intentions. We really need a world that is free of nuclear weapons because we have no choice if we want to preserve mankind. I ask. Would we have made all of these concessions willingly if we had any hostile intentions?

[Al-Sa'id] In light of next month's meeting between Shevardnadze and Shultz and last month's meeting between Polyakov and Murphy, can it be said that a rapprochement between the two superpowers on the Middle East issue is possible? Some people consider the Polyakov-Murphy meeting during the first week of this month in Geneva a prelude to another meeting between Shevardnadze and Shultz. Has the Geneva meeting crowned a real understanding between the two superpowers?

[Sytenko] The talk in Geneva revolved around the question of a Middle East settlement and the international conference. There was no identity of viewpoints between the two superpowers on many issues. However, we have at least seen progress in the sense that the Americans have begun talking about the international conference when even a mere mention of the subject was rejected in the past. Positions still differ on how each side views this conference.

IRANIAN AMBASSADOR RECEIVED AT SUPREME SOVIET

LD171429 Moscow TASS in English 1411 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 17 TASS -- Bally Yazkuliyev, vice president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, received today the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Soviet Union N. Hayrani-Nobari at the latter's request and had a conversation with him.

U.S. HELICOPTERS BEGIN MINESWEEPING IN GULF

LD172003 Moscow TASS in English 1940 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] New York August 17 (TASS) -- American helicopters have started searching for mines in the Persian Gulf, the PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER reports.

Eight helicopters were brought to the Gulf by the helicopter carrier Guadalcanal, which sailed through the Hormuz Strait on Saturday and dropped anchor 30 miles to the northeast of Bahrain.

On Sunday the American choppers conducted their search for mines precisely in the area through which three Kuwaiti tankers with an escort of American naval ships are to sail shortly on their way out to the Gulf. The loaded tankers have already heaved away from the oil terminals in Kuwait and their crews are awaiting instructions from the U.S. Navy.

FRENCH SEND SHIPS TO 'BEEF UP' INDIAN OCEAN FORCES

LD172007 Moscow TASS in English 1938 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Paris August 17 (TASS) -- Yet another French naval squadron sailed out of Toulon for the Indian Ocean tonight. It consists of the mine sweepers Cantho, Garigliano, and Vinh Long and the support ship Garonne with a crew totalling about 340 men.

The decision to send the squadron was made by the Defence Ministry to beef up the French naval squadron that is already in the Indian Ocean area.

Meantime the latter headed by the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, which has on board 40 Super-Etendard planes capable of carrying tactical nuclear weapons, is already in the "area of operations" near the Gulf of Oman. This squadron includes the missile frigates Suffren and Duquesne and a tanker to supply the ships with fuel.

According to press reports, this first group of French naval ships will await the three mine sweepers which are expected to reach them by about September 10.

The commander of the French Navy in the Indian Ocean Admiral Jacques Lancsade said that "the operation of mine sweepers to safeguard the French squadron's security is envisaged for a lengthy period of time."

KAPRALOV DESCRIBES THREAT OF ISRAEL'S JERICHO-2

PM131551 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 87 Morning Edition p 5

[A. Kapralov article: "Not a Legendary but a Real Jericho"]

[Text] If biblical legend is to be believed, the unscalable walls of Jericho were brought down by the sound of Israeli soldiers' trumpets...

Today's followers of the ancient conquerors use different tools in their assaults: Merkava heavy tanks, whose tracks rolled over the olive groves on the West Bank of the Jordan; long-range artillery, which shelled hospitals in Al-Nabatiyah; phosphorus bombs, which the occupiers used to burn down the Lebanese fortress of Beaufort Castle and its defenders; vacuum bombs like the one which turned a city block in Beirut into a communal grave; and F-16 aircraft, some of which bombed the PLO headquarters in Tunis. Finally, Tel Aviv also has several types of missiles in service -- Gabriel, Barak, and Shafrir. Ths arsenal was recently augmented by a new one, perhaps the most dangerous of all the aforementioned instruments of death.

According to reports in the Geneva journal REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE DEFENSE, Israel has completed tests on the Jericho-2 medium-range ballistic missile, which is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

Citing intelligence sources in Washington, the journal reports that a Jericho-2 missile was launched somewhere in the Mediterranean in May this year. It covered a distance of 820 km. It is believed that the missile's future maximum range will be 1,450 km.

Commenting on this report, an observer of the Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ declared "that this was merely a matter of a weapon designed as a deterrent to hostile countries which do not share a common border with Israel."

By using the word "deterrent" the observer, to put it mildly, sinned against truth. Let us recall that all the weapons received by Israel from, for example, the United States, were supplied to Tel Aviv apparently exclusively for defense purposes. But Tel Aviv tested more than 100 types of these weapons on Lebanese civilians during its aggression against that country. The demonstration of Israeli "deterrence" cost the Lebanese and Palestinian people tens of thousands of lives. It is not hard to imagine the destructive "deterrent" force of a Jericho-2 missile fitted with a nuclear warhead. And according to reports in that same newspaper HA'ARETZ, Israel already has between 50 and 100 such warheads.

Indeed, only a simpleton would believe the voices claiming that countries sharing a common border with Israel have nothing to fear from the new missile. Of course, Israel is trying to dull the Arabs' vigilance and distract their attention from Israel's nuclear preparations. REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE DEFENSE is far more specific in this connection: "Israeli missiles fitted with nuclear warheads already are, or will be in the very near future, capable of reaching the capitals of all potentially hostile states, including Baghdad."

All without exception! And yet one recalls that until relatively recently the Tel Aviv authorities claimed that "Israel will be neither the first nor the second country to introduce nuclear weapons" in the Near East and even called for the region's transformation into a nuclear-free zone. They claimed this, and went on to become the first and only Near East country to have -- according to reports by reliable Western sources -- nuclear weapons.

Previously Israel blackmailed the Arabs with reports about its possession of the nuclear bomb, but now that an efficient dolivery vehicle has emerged the danger of a nuclear catastrophe occurring in the Near East increases not in arithmetical but in geometrical progression, and this, I think, will not go unnoticed either by Israel's Arab neighbors or by other countries which could be the Jericho's potential targets.

Are we not laying it on a bit too thick? Is it not an exaggeration to claim that Tel Aviv is seriously rehearsing options for a nuclear Armageddon in the Near East? Alas. Secret documents confiscated from the Israeli Trade Mission in Tehran which reached Britain's THE OBSERVER testify that the "Flower" Program (it was within this program's framework that the Jericho-2 missile was created) is oriented toward nuclear war.

It was no accident that Tel Aviv has chosen the name Jericho-2 for its new missile. The symbolism is perfectly understandable. The "horns of Jericho" brought down the walls of one of Palestine's cities about 3,000 years ago. The "Jericho" nuclear warheads are designed to violate the borders of entire states, cripple the lives of peoples, and turn cities into ruins, so that neither the wailing sound of horns nor the soft twang of the strings of an Arab oud can be heard among the ashes.

BOMBING OF SRI LANKA PARLIAMENT REPORTED

LD180607 Moscow TASS in English 0558 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] London August 18 TASS -- A strong blast ripping through the Sri Lanka Parliament as the government MP's gathered there for a conference left Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, two ministers and seven other people injured, REUTERS reported from Colombo, quoting officials.

The conference was called an hour before parliament was to begin discussing an agreement for settling the ethnic conflict in the country.

PROGRESS, PROBLEMS OF DRA RECONCILIATION NOTED

PM171407 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Aug 87 Second Edition p 6

[Own correspondent V. Okulov dispatch: "Afghanistan: Dialectics of Reconciliation"]

[Text] Kabul -- The old teacher Mirza Inayatulla [name as published], chairman of the district emergency national reconciliation commission in Nangarhar Province and well-known throughout the region, visited his brother. Nobody suspected that the house was surrounded by a gang until there was a terrible explosion: The dushmans had fired a rocket straight at the gates. They then burst into the house, grabbed 65-year-old Inayatulla, tied up his son -- who had tried to protect his father, and took them away into the steppe. There they administered the punishment -- they pelted them with stones and when they were half-dead fired machineguns at them...

"It would be naive to think," Gol Mukhammad [name as published], a worker at the Nangarhar PDPA Provincial Committee, said, "that with the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy the situation has become more simple. The bandit groups received their orders from abroad: Kill everyone promoting reconciliation, prevent the return of refugees, and carry out acts of terrorism in population centers..."

However, in Nangarhar and other parts of the country life is producing facts of a different kind. Dozens of dushman ringleaders, like my interlocutor in the province of Jalalabad -- Mullah Gafur [name as published] -- have come over to the side of the authorities together with their men. The mullah is not fighting fiercely against his former "comrades-in-arms," as if to atone for his delayed insight.

Almost everyplace I visited in Afghanistan over the last few months I was convinced that the national reconciliation policy has polarized forces even more and has drawn a clear line between those who are in favor of it and those who oppose it. The most aggressive part of the counterrevolution has managed to complicate the situation in certain regions. In complete accordance with the truce conditions the republic's Armed Forces and the Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops are responding with more powerful fire when fired upon and are resolutely putting a stop to the attempts to bring in weapons from abroad for the gangs. Here is just one feature that emphasizes the acuteness of the situation: Over the last 6 months 24,000 rockets have been seized from the dushmans and as many have been destroyed during raids on their bases.

Does this mean that the national reconciliation policy has failed? By no means. It has merely become clear that its implementation has turned out to be more complex than could have been foreseen. The many difficulties and the slow pace of positive improvements are largely to be explained -- if one takes account of merely domestic Afghan factors -- by the backwardness of this oriental country, where the majority of the population stand outside of politics or have a poor grasp of it owing to ignorance and illiteracy. The complexity of the reconciliation process lies also in the fact that it requires a restructuring of many people's thinking and the time for this to come about.

At the same time, Kabul's initiative has led to an intensification of groupings within the opposition. Circles are starting to appear with which dialogue may be possible. It is not only a question of certain groupings in Pakistan. Contacts are maintained with Afghan emigres in various countries. Armed groups numbering tens of thousands of men are involved in the talks.

There are many areas in the country where relative calm has been established. At a Kabul press conference Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, reported that the people's power is operating in more than 8,600 villages, 142 districts, 68 regions, and 45 cities, including all the provincial centers. In terms of area this is the greater part of the country's inhabitable area.

At the same time the outlines of a fanatical number of opponents of the current power prepared to fight the government forces "to the last Afghan" are becoming clearer and clearer. The leaders of the extremist wing of the opposition are not only demonstrating their reluctance to come to the negotiating table but, like card players, are bluffing and trying to show that they are allegedly capable of influencing the situation even in the region of the Afghan-Soviet border. Obviously, the frenzied opposition of this essentially hired section of the counterrevolution gives Washington a basis for gambling on expanding the scale of the undeclared war. Stinger and Blowpipe anti-aircraft missiles have long ceased to be a rarity in exhibitions of trophies seized in battle. The arming and training of the insurgents continues to proceed apace in Pakistan.

Many examples are cited here of how the Pakistani and Iranian authorities are continuing to hamper the return home of Afghan refugees. Kabul has announced the following figures: After the announcement of the truce more than 60,000 people returned from abroad. Is that alot or a little? It is not much if one considers that according to approximate assessments there are no less than 1.5 million of them in Pakistan. However, the scale and prospects for this "return" can only be accurately assessed by taking account of the difficulties which people have to overcome on the road to their native villages.

The fundamentally new positions which the national reconciliation process is starting to reach were spelled out by the PDPA Central Committee June Plenum. As Najib stated, objective conditions exist in the country for creating a coalition of democratic and patriotic forces.

What does he have in mind? It is planned to legalize parties and groupings that had hitherto operated illegally and to form new parties striving for a national compromise. According to the adopted law, they will be entitled to enter the National Front, to nominate candidates at elections, and to publish print organs. A desire has been expressed for the formation of an Islamic party of the clergy. The prerequisites exist for a peasant party to emerge. The possibility of parties being set up by liberal circles or representatives of the national bourgeoisie has not been ruled out.

The PDPA Central Committee Plenum also spoke out with regard to the principles of state power, favoring a multiparty setup based on compromise. The PDPA proposes setting up a coalition government on a broad platform based on uniting those advocating an end to bloodshed and those who agree that Afghanistan must in the future remain an integral, united, sovereign, neutral, and nonaligned state.

The plenum has been followed by practical steps. A new draft constitution has been put forward for nationwide discussion. In particular, it proposes replacing the country's current name -- which, it believes, was adopted rather too soon -- with another: the Republic of Afghanistan. Islam is enshrined as the people's religion. A presidential form of rule is envisaged.

The state posts which the PDPA proposes to allocate to opposition representatives -- vice president, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers or even premier, leaders of a number of ministries, and ambassadors -- were recently named also. In order to promote the national compromise process the unilateral cease-fire has been extended for another 6 months -- until 15 January 1988.

Only extremist counterrevolutionary circles have dissociated themselves from those forces able to unite around peace-making ideas. Offering nothing in return, they want only to win power by wholly excluding PDPA representatives from a possible coalition government.

This position is bereft of any sense of reality. The attempts to "isolate" the largest political party with 9 years' experience of leading Afghanistan -- and during an unusually difficult and crucial time in its history -- are undoubtedly doomed to failure.

What is the situation within the PDPA itself and the state apparatus under the conditions of the reconciliation course? Certain people were dismayed by and pessimistic about the difficulties involved in implementing the new policy: These were those who expected the enemy to capitulate quickly and those who are unable or unwilling to compromise with the opposition for fear of losing their posts. Incidentally, there are few such people, although our enemies play skillfully on their egoistic feelings, gambling on undermining our unity and inciting cliquishness and clannishness.

Meanwhile, the peace-making activity is giving rise in practice to elements of coalition rule. In Afghanistan this process begins at the grass roots. Some 14 districts and 4 provinces are headed by former insurgents who have stated their loyalty to the people's power. Around 6,000 representatives of the opposition are cooperating with government supporters within the framework of village, region, district, and in certain places even provincial emergency national reconciliation commissions.

"We too have many such examples," Kukhat [name as published] Khan, chairman of the provincial commission and former colonel in the royal army, told me in Jalalabad. "We are not standing idly by. We have established contacts with gang ringleaders. The progress may be small, but there has been progress..."

On a nationwide scale this progress is attested by the following facts: 1,335 villages have been peacefully liberated. Individual provinces -- Nimruz and Farah, for example -- are essentially turning into provinces of peace. According to assessments by the Afghan side, organs of coalition rule operate in 15 percent of the villages.

The main political result of the past months is currently becoming clearer and clearer in Kabul: The idea of compromise for the sake of ending the fratricide has encompassed various sectors of the population, and has turned from a slogan into a practical task. The struggle to implement this idea in the exacerbated situation is facing the PDPA -- the motive force of reconciliation -- with problem after problem. But it is teaching us a great deal, enriching us with experience, and warning us against delusion and error. It is hard to master the dialectics of reconciliation, Afghan friends admitted to me. But we must master them. There is simply no other way.

MESSAGES, MEETINGS MARK INDIAN INDEPENDENCE

PRAVDA Notes Greetings

PM170925 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Aug 87 Second Edition p 1

[Soviet leadership's greetings message to India's Venkataraman, Gandhi on independence anniversary]

[Text] To His Excellency Mr Ramaswamy Venkataraman, president of the Republic of India

His Excellency Mr Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of the Republic of India

On behalf of the Soviet Union's people and leadership we cordially congratulate you, and through you the government and people of friendly India, on the occasion of the great national holiday -- the 40th anniversary of independence.

The Indian people's victory in their national liberation struggle was an event of enormous historical importance. It became a most important landmark in the cause of eliminating a disgraceful remnant of the past -- imperialism's colonial system.

Over the past 40 years India has traversed a long path and achieved impressive successes in various spheres of the economy, science, and culture. India's great prestige in the international arena is the result of its consistent actions to avert the nuclear threat, terminate the arms race, and restructure international economic relations on the principles of equality and fairness and of the constructive role it plays in the Nonaligned Movement and the peace-loving initiatives of the group of six states.

People in the Soviet Union highly value the relations of traditional friendship and equal mutually beneficial cooperation prevailing between our countries. Major accords in the political and economic spheres and other important spheres have been reached in the course of Soviet-Indian summit meetings in Delhi and Moscow. Their implementation will take cooperation between the USSR and India across qualitatively new frontiers both in bilateral and in international affairs, especially in the building of a world free from nuclear weapons and violence. The Indian festival in the USSR and the Soviet Union festival in India are meant to bring our peoples even closer together.

We express confidence that the friendly Soviet-Indian relations will continue to develop and strengthen on the basis of the 1971 Treaty and the Delhi Declaration in the interests of the peoples of the Soviet Union and India, the interests of peace and cooperation in Asia and all over the world.

We wish good health and successes to you, esteemed Mr President and Mr Prime Minister, and happiness and prosperity to the great Indian people.

USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium
USSR Council of Ministers

'Ceremonial Meeting' Held

PM141215 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Aug 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Ceremonial Meeting"]

[Excerpt] Cooperation between the Soviet Union and India is distinguished by its large-scale and multifaceted nature, is being constantly enriched with new forms and substance, and embraces important spheres of the activity of our countries' peoples. This was pointed out at a ceremonial meeting of representatives of the capital's public devoted to the 40th anniversary of India's independence and the 16th anniversary of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation between the USSR and India. It was held in Moscow 13 August.

In the presidium were V.P. Nikonov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; B. Yazkuliyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; B.L. Tolstykh, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; leaders of a number of ministries and departments; representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations; and Indian guests.

V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, delivered the report. [passage omitted]

Reception at Indian Embassy

PM171113 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Aug 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "To Mark the Anniversary"]

[Text] Indian Ambassador to the USSR T.N. Kaul gave a reception 14 August to mark the 40th anniversary of India's independence.

The reception was attended by V.P. Nikonov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; B. Yazkuliyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; V.M. Kamentsev and B.L. Tolstykh, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers; leaders of a number of ministries and departments; and representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations.

INDIA'S SINGH DISCUSSES PAKISTAN, CHINA ISSUES

OW111257 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Indian State Minister of External Affairs Singh made the following remarks on Monday when meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Kuranari, who was on an official visit to India: India is deeply concerned about the activities Pakistan is carrying out within the framework of its nuclear program aimed at manufacturing nuclear weapons as well as the attempt of its citizens to steal the required data from the United States. Supplying Pakistan with modern U.S. weapons will have an adverse effect on the security of that region.

Touching on India-China relations, Singh reiterated that India is determined to solve the border disputes by peaceful means. There is a great possibility to expand and deepen bilateral ties with the PRC, he noted.

COMMENTARY VIEWS SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

MB171331 Moscow in Afrikaans to South Africa 1745 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] In 1950 the South African Government promulgated the Suppression of Communism Act. That was during a time when the National Party [NP] was set on destroying all of its opponents. The NP was proclaiming its policy of apartheid and believed in the ideas of [words indistinct] which led to protests in the country. The South African Communists also participated in these protests, demanding the broadening of democracy. These justifiable demands were the reason for the anticommunism legislation being passed.

Today the foolishness of this legislation is evident. What the communists were demanding then is a common demand in South Africa today, but many lives have been lost in the intervening years. It could be said that there are many similarities between the leadership of South Africa at that time and the present leadership. As in the past, they believe in violence and [word indistinct]. The state of emergency has been extended, political murders have been carried out, and sham reforms have been announced.

Perhaps the most striking example today is the attitude of the South African Government to the Dakar meeting. It is firmly opposed to the meeting, even though, in the opinion of many South Africans, the meeting was important in seeking new relationships between the white community and the main liberation organization in South Africa, the ANC [African National Congress]. The organizers and participants in the talks at Dakar have been openly threatened. Indeed, as is known, one of these organizers was found dead in Ciskei.

The [words indistinct] of confrontation with the democratic organizations taken by the Nationalists has many important consequences; this is understood by many South Africans. The government will be forced to understand this too. The banning of democratic organizations like the ANC and the South African Communist Party is not a solution. Such bannings are simply a hindrance to the solution of the many problems in South Africa.

KULIK LAUDS STRIKE BY MINERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

LD172102 Moscow TASS in English 1920 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 17 TASS -- Follows commentary by Sergey Kulik, TASS political news analyst:

The draconian methods used by the RSA Government in an attempt at suppressing the mineworkers strike, the biggest ever in that country, is proof of the view which has long existed in independent Africa: Bloodshed in South Africa cannot be stopped before the apartheid regime is scrapped.

The statements by high-ranking representatives of Pretoria that they will remain "neutral" in a labour dispute between the strikers and the transnational corporations bossing South Africa's ore mining industry have proved to be false throughout. As news agencies report on an increasing number of the victims of bloody terror unleashed against the workers, it is getting ever more obvious that responsible for the new casualties are the South African authorities.

A further sharp escalation of terror against the strikers, including the sending of army units into the territory of the mines, is predicted in the circles close to Pieter Botha's cabinet.

What can be the outcome of that? Today more than 350 thousand black African workers have walked out in the RSA. Yet as a special statement by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) warns, in the event of attempts at suppressing the mineworkers strike by force, they will be joined by all the 750 thousand members of that biggest trade union confederation of the Republic of South Africa. Already now the mineworkers strike costs the RSA's treasury seven million dollars daily. If COSATU carries out its threat, the financial system of the Republic of South Africa will be on the verge of disaster.

Pretoria's official propaganda is trying to reduce the actions by the South African working class to purely economic demands for a 30 percent raise in the pay, observance by the corporations of safety engineering rules and an end to racial segregation in the industry. Yet, in real fact, the current strike is a component part of the struggle waged by the black majority against apartheid and is therefore of a political character. It is evidence of the maturity of the working class movement of that country, of the determination of the South African proletariat to go to any sacrifices for the sake of eradicating racism.

In that sense the strike has ricochetted powerfully against the arguments of the Western opponents of the imposition of economic sanctions against the RSA under the pretext that they will allegedly hit most the Africans themselves. The current strike by the black African workers is some kind of sanctions against apartheid "from within" carried out by the workers despite the risk to lose jobs and even to die. Their strike has paralysed the operation of the country's most important branches of the economy, which ensures 60 percent of export earnings channelled precisely to those Western countries which systematically bloc at the U.N. the imposition of all-embracing sanctions on Pretoria.

Hence one cannot but agree with the opinion of the Tanzanian newspaper UHURU: The current grandiose mineworkers strike will go down into the history of the struggle waged by the South African working people against apartheid, for their legitimate rights. It is a harbinger of an outburst of anger by the black African majority which has realised that the position of the black African population in the RSA cannot be changed by simply a pay raise and other partial concessions.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION PROTOCOL WITH ANGOLA -- Luanda, 16 August (TASS) -- A protocol on cultural and scientific cooperation between the USSR and the People's Republic of Angola for 1987-88 was signed in Luanda on Saturday. It provides for the further development of links between the USSR and the PRA in the training of staff, the organization of book, art, and photographic exhibitions, and of tours by artists, and the holding of film festivals and sports functions. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0705 GMT 16 Aug 87 LD]

PRAVDA NOTES BCP DECISION ON PUBLIC CEREMONIAL

PM171529 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Aug 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "BCP Central Committee Politburo on the 'Attributes of Power'"]

[Text] Sofia, 11 Jul -- A BCP Central Committee Politburo resolution "On the Need for Profound Changes in the Attributes of Power in Accordance With the Decisions of the BCP Central Committee July (1987) Plenum" has been published here. It says that in connection with the document adopted at the plenum "Basic Tenets of the Concept for the Further Building of Socialism in Bulgaria" profound, comprehensive changes must be implemented in society's political superstructure. The point of these changes lies in the gradual transition of power in the name of the people to power of the people, which means a new structure of the self-management organs, new rights and obligations, a new degree of responsibility, and a new type of democracy.

Many of the present attributes of power, the resolution says, belong to the past stage of development. They contradict objective laws, the new ideas of democracy, and the demands of self-management. It is necessary to resolutely get rid of a number of phenomena which show symptoms of falsity, window dressing, and formalism and which lead to people's alienation from the bright principles in whose name the new society is being built.

Taking all this into consideration, the BCP Central Committee Politburo deems it expedient for the appropriate competent organs to elaborate a system of rules and norms for the manifestation of power. In this connection, in particular, it is proposed to elaborate a ritual for raising the state flag on official holidays in the central squares of populated areas. A new procedure for using the state coat of arms and performing the Bulgarian national anthem will also be established. In particular, it is a question of arranging the anthem so that it can be sung at rallies.

The resolution proposes to introduce a new practice for holding official holidays which would preclude extravagant and ideologically and economically unjustified events and conform with the population's wishes. Official holidays must become truly nationwide holidays and must be marked in an atmosphere of equality and comradeship and in an atmosphere of the people's cohesion around the party, the resolution points out. There must be an end to displays extolling leaders of any rank and the ordinary person -- the working person and creator of history -- must be the main figure at the celebrations. In this connection it is proposed not to hold demonstrations on official holidays in the future.

The resolution points out that the previously existing practice of holding sociopolitical and business events has often suffered from excessive pomp, gigantomania, unnecessary stage management, and so on. In this connection, it is proposed to prevent wasting the time of citizens, specialists, and leaders in participation in insignificant events.

The BCP Central Committee Politburo is confident, the resolution's conclusion stresses, that these measures will facilitate the creation of a suitable political and ideological climate for the functioning of the new organs of power and for affirming the power of the people. The Politburo expresses the conviction that they will be greeted with understanding and approval by Communists, members of the Bulgarian Agrarian National Union, nonparty people, and all the country's working people.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ON 'MARTYR' HESS

LD181018 Moscow World Service in English 1000 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, Yuriy Gremitskikh, has told our correspondent that the Soviet Union refutes the attempts by West German neo-Nazis and chauvinistically-minded politicians in the West to make a martyr out of the Nazi criminal Rudolf Hess and exonerate his past. Hess, sentenced by the international tribunal to life imprisonment after fascist Germany's defeat in 1945, died at the age of 93 in West Berlin on Monday.

Hitler's deputy in the Nazi Party, Rudolf Hess was responsible for the Nazi laws which served as a legal basis for exterminating millions of innocent people and for aggression against many countries. A wish to give Hess a martyr's halo, said Yuriy Gremitskikh, is part of an attempt to wipe out the memory of the Nazi's bloody crimes. It justified apprehensions in the world that the Nazis, be it of the old or new brand, were still a grave danger.

NAZARKIN CONFERS WITH FRENCH ON CHEMICAL ARMS

LD172001 Moscow TASS in English 1938 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Paris August 17 TASS -- Soviet-French consultations were held here today. Questions of the total prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons were discussed.

The Soviet side explained in detail the new initiatives in this field advanced by the USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Shevardnadze at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on August 6, 1987.

The consultations were held by the USSR representative at the Conference on Disarmament Ambssador Yuriy Nazarkin, the USSR Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim in France O.V. Krivonogov, Deputy Director of the Political Department of the French Ministry of External Relations Bengit D'Aboville and the French representative at the Conference on Disarmament Pierre Morel.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, ITALY'S GORIA EXCHANGE CABLES

LD151146 Moscow TASS in English 1110 GMT 15 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS -- The USSR Council of Ministers has sent a telegram to Giovanni Giuseppe Goria, congratulating him on his appointment as chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Italy.

In his reply telegram, he expressed sincere gratitude for the congratulations.

The telegrams expressed the hope that the continued development of Soviet-Italian relations would serve the interests of the people of both countries and help strengthen peace, international security and mutual understanding.

MOSCOW REPORTS ON U.S. 'INTERVENTION' IN PANAMA

PA111331 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 2300 GMT 7 Aug 87

[Text] The National Civilianization Crusade, a rightist business organization, has reconfirmed its refusal to hold a dialogue with the Panamanian Government, and has called for a second strike on Monday, 17 August. The announcement was made during a demonstration authorized by the government. Analysts state that the rightist anti-government sectors seem to have gotten a second wind with the confirmation of the United States' anti-Panamanian measures.

In fact, the renewed activities coincide with the announcement made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that the United States will keep frozen its aid to Panama. This is an indecent trick because the United States demanded that Panama pay compensation for damages caused to the U.S. Embassy in Panama during a demonstration; payment was a provision for renewing the aid.

Panama paid for the damages, but now Washington wants more; it wants to change the Panamanian Government. Washington has definitely taken sides with the rightist forces which, as has been said, want to oust President Eric Delvalle. Furthermore, the rightists have publicly announced that four U.S. Senators were at the mentioned anti-government demonstration. What would the rightist sector's chances be if it did not have U.S. support? The principal support is given by rich sectors in the country, so one cannot rule out that a destabilization could occur through economic means. Nevertheless, the strike by these sectors on 27-28 July proved that there was little middle class participation, and that most of the people rejected it. Given these conditions, it is unlikely that the right-wing sector will dare act with the brazeness made possible by the United States' support.

CENTRAL AMERICA STATEMENT HANDED TO USSR OFFICIAL

PM171135 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Aug 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Conversation Held"]

[Text] During a conversation which took place 12 August, U. Cascante, Costa Rican charge d'affaires ad interim to the USSR, passed on to USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V.G. Komplektov the official text of the final document on questions of a political settlement in the region adopted at the conference of presidents of Central American countries. U. Cascante's attention was drawn to the statement by the Soviet Government on this question. The charge d'affaires ad interim noted the Soviet Union's consistent constructive position with great satisfaction.

ZHUKOV, OTHERS DISCUSS NATIONALITIES ISSUE

LD142122 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1750 GMT on 12 August carries a 105-minute program entitled "Standpoint," hosted by Genrikh Borovik, which examines the state of and prospects for relations among the nationalities of the USSR. Taking part in the Moscow studio are writer Mikhail Alekseyev; poet Boris Oleynik; Yuriy Zhukov of the Institute of History of the USSR Academy of Sciences; Omor Sultanov, secretary of the Board of the Kirghiz Writers Union; writer Grigoriy Baklanov; and writer Vladimir Soloukhin. Also taking part via satellite linkup are Kazakh director Azerbaijan Mambetov and Kirghiz artist Kudduz Kuzhamyarnov, from Alma-Ata; artist Vaya Artmane, from Riga; and director Grigoriy Lordkipanidze, from Tbilisi.

Borovik begins by saying: "Our program today is devoted to issues of internationalism and relations between the nations in our own country. We are taking only the moral aspect of this very big, very complex, and very delicate problem. Without doubt, we understand, we cannot exhaust this theme in one or even several broadcasts. But in any case we undertake that this broadcast on this theme, which is very necessary for us, is the first, but not the last.

"In order to start off our conversation I want to convey a request from one of the people who wrote in to us: Please explain, when did you feel yourself to be an internationalist? Well, I think that is a fairly complex question, although each of us has understood that he is an internationlist. Perhaps now each of us could answer it very briefly.

"If I could begin, I would say simply that naturally it is very complex to say when you felt this. Now, when I think about it I simply remember the Spanish cap, you remember them, which we wore from 1937-1939, when we were boys. Well, naturally, then I did not understand what an internationalist was. But now, thinking over these issues, for some reason I remembered precisely this, a kind of tangible visual feeling of internationalism."

Alekseyev then recalls his wartime memories and the international character of his fighting unit during the battle for Stalingrad. The program then shows an excerpt of a film showing how Kazakh herdsmen drove cattle into the Ukraine during the famine that followed the war.

Borovik then asks Mambetov and Kuzhamyanov to share their thoughts both in connection with this excerpt and in connection with the events that took place in Alma-Ata. Mambetov, appearing on a screen in the studio from Alma-Ata, says: "Yes, these shots are very moving. And, I too, as a juvenile from that time, so to speak... Then I didn't know; we juveniles didn't know what a Russian, a Kazakh, a Ukrainian was. All of us were united in our thoughts and lived in the glow of the victory, so to speak, in this war. Time, however, passes. A new generation has grown up that does not remember the war, which, so to speak, has received a great deal of information. They have more information than we had then. So, we know that in the past few years, especially in our republic, there have been very stagnant phenomena, and especially in the sphere of ideology perhaps, which made themselves felt -- these negative phenomena -- in December of the past year.

"This is a very bitter lesson not only for our republic. This is very much a lesson for all our republics. Because the education of the new generation and this development of democracy, of glasnost, which is now taking place in our country after the 27th congress, gave rise to a new wave of dissatisfaction with the shortcomings and the many things which were being passed over in silence in our life.

"We must reveal to young people the whole truth in our plays, in our new works. Last year I directed the play by Chingiz Aytmatov, "A Day, Longer Than an Age," at the Vakhtangov theater. There I was, a Kazakh, a play by the Kirghiz playwright Chingiz Aytmatov, the sets were designed by the Georgian Sumbatashvili Iosif, and the marvellous actor Mikhail Ulyanov played the part. This is a single whole, you understand, because the problems raised in this novel, in this play, are common to all mankind. We didn't look for any national traits or national or exotic things. We thought of the great task of man on Earth: to fight for justice, to fight for the truth."

"You know on the whole the events that took place in Kazakhstan are frequently explained only with charges of corruption, clannishness, etc. But I think that, probably, there were also elements of nationalism, nevertheless. Evidently, it was not just a matter here of having or not having received full information, but, probably, we had simply become a little complacent on the issue of internationalism. Perhaps we all believe that so to speak, we have indeed absorbed this with the mother's milk and that there is absolutely no need to worry. Now I will request Kudduz Kuzhamyarovich to share his thoughts."

Kuzhamyarov responds: "Perhaps in the past decade, somewhere civilization has made an impact, it seems to me. We have received great successes in all directions, regardless of whether small or large peoples were involved, in the economy, in culture, in all respects. The more human society grows, evidently, the greater everyone's (?wish) to get to know the history of the worth of his nation. People are looking for it. This is a very good phenomenon, a correct phenomenon. But, evidently, somewhere we overdo it, to put it crudely, and get carried away; here we show signs of cracking.

"In this matter I would like to stress not so much the passion for national feelings as the correct channelling of our ideological work. A passion for the worth of each nation we must have, but we must know when to stop, we must be able to assess the worth of one's own people but also of other peoples. This is the most important thing. Inasmuch as I belong to a national minority I sense this better than anyone. Even when you speak about the friendship between Armenians, Kazakhs, and Uzbeks, you sometimes even shock me (?when speaking) of republics. In Kazakhstan we live among Kazakhs, Uigurs, Dungans, Koreans, Germans, and others. Friendship is as in a family in our house in Kazakhstan, as friendship between peoples. We in the USSR are most infatuated with interrepublican friendship. Of course, each republic is trying to overemphasize itself. This is not only the case in Kazakhstan. I believe that in all republics in our country such a disease has appeared."

Responding to a question from the audience on cultural exchanges among republics, Mambetov says: "I would like to say just this, that recently there have been very few exchanges in cultural tours between the union republics. We do not see theaters from Armenia, Georgia, or the Baltic republics. We do not even have exchanges with Central Asia. So, if for example, some foreign variety singer comes, then, well, I think that of late we have become lax in an exchange of mutual influence, a mutual exchange in the best cultural values between the republics."

Borovik takes up the theme by saying: "I would like to add, Azerbaijan Matveyevich, that mutual exchange of drama productions between the republics has tailed off over the past, say, 10-15 years. This is a complicated matter. But as far as I understand it, the question concerned something different. The question concerned mutual relations, including economic relations.

"Because what you were saying, Kudduz Kuzhamyarovich, about an unnecessarily high evaluation of one's own strength concerns not just Kazakhstan, of course. It concerns many people, because we are interlinked. Some people do one thing, but they are given help in something else. Probably we need to know more about this, just as we need to know more about the Uigurs, the Kazakhs, the Kara-Kalpaks, and about all of the enormous number of magnificent peoples, great and small, living on the territory of our country."

There then follows a recorded interview with Sergey Vladimirovich Obraztsov, director and USSR People's Artist. The correspondent asks: "Sergey Vladimirovich, what do you think? Why is it that in the 70th year of our Soviet authority, when it would seem that it should be possible to divest ourselves of this question of internationalist education, such events have taken place as those in Alma-Ata in December and before that in Yakutiya. The papers are now splashed with material about the Pamyat Society and Spaseniye. What do you think? Why is it that the question is a very acute one now?

Obraztsov replies: "I think that we are to blame for this ourselves. We turned ideas into slogans. We rubber-stamped the slogans and they stopped working. This is very serious. If you inscribe on the roof of every building: The Party and the People Are One, it stops working. There is the commandment: Do not take the name of the Lord Thy God in vain. It's a very good commandment. If you repeat a certain idea over and over, it becomes a cliche, and certain ideas have become cliches, including the idea of internationalist friendship and of internationalism in general.

"It is very seldom now that young people speak about communism. They speak about it rarely. But it is strange, because the overall idea of our whole revolution, of our whole lives is to arrive at communism, at a state in which all people will be completely equal, in which there will be no difference between people's destinies. Of course, they will differ in their nature, their talents, and in everything. But people should not differ in their human destiny. They should be equal. People have partly forgotten about this precisely because it has become a cliche.

"The most interesting thing is that peoples do not differ from one another. Governments vary. There are bad ones and better ones; there are various ones. But people are the same. There are mothers everywhere. There are fathers everywhere. There are children everywhere. In this sense, people are the same. I cannot at all understand how one can like one people or not like another. It's a very terrible thing when a person doesn't like a certain people. It's very bad. It doesn't matter whether one doesn't like Russians or Frenchmen, or Armenians, or Gypsies. It is all the same. You must not draw distinctions".

Back in the studio the discussion resumes with Alekseyev answering a question on the distinction between national pride and national arrogance, saying: "You will recall that they spoke about this at the plenum of the Writers' Union and I think there's no harm in repeating it. I am convinced that the shortest path to the hearts of other peoples is through the heart of one's own people. This is what Melinskiy said: If you don't love your fatherland, it is unthinkable that you will love all mankind. The main thing is that we need to pin down and understand this national arrogance. It is harmful.

"Many people have become fathers, grandfathers, mothers, grandmothers -- a family. Take it in isolation. You have a family. They are all linked by the closest bonds, by blood. The father, mother, and children. Nonetheless, how much tact, intelligence, and patience is needed to make that family a really harmonious one.

"How much tact, intelligence, patience, and wisdom is needed to make multinational peoples with different creeds and different traditions a family of peoples. No one has ever managed to do this. Our revolution managed to do it.

"But, you know, as always, some alarm signal reminds us that we must by no means trust that this has already been achieved. Our feeling of friendship can be linked with a feeling of love. It is just as fragile and just as vulnerable. We must be very, very careful, and we must never hurt national interests."

Sultanov then adds: "In this connection, when we have natural disasters in our country, when there are earthquakes, hurricanes, or mudflows, we feel it as a general misfortune. These ideals and feelings have developed naturally in us. When this event happened in Alma-Ata -- we have comrades from Alma-Ata speaking here -- this is what we must think about: It's not just the leaders or the older comrades in Alma-Ata, it's a misfortune for all of us. I believe that we older people everywhere, both leaders and ideologists, we have overlooked something. Do you understand? For this reason, it's not just Kazakhstan that's to blame. We're all to blame. We must take account of this in the future.

"My generation, people of my age didn't know what was and what was not internationalism. Who taught us to be internationalists? No, we did not have this. We only read about it in books. There were internationalists in Spain. We only knew about internationalist heroes. I remember when I was a schoolboy there wasn't a single Russian in my home village. When one Russian arrived from the front -- everyone called him Petr, including we schoolboys -- everyone wanted to offer him a corner, a room in their house. Who taught them to do this? No one taught them to. Life itself taught them.

"And so I want to make one point. We must learn internationalism from childhood, from the home, from the family. Do you understand? Let us say my little daughter goes to kindergarten. She hears various things and passes them on to me. For example, she says: A Russian boy hit me; I don't like him. If I listen to her without giving the correct response, the correct education, then she will have this idea forever, for her whole life."

A film excerpt is then shown in which a reporter asks children in a playground about their nationalities and those of their friends.

Oleynik resumes the discussion saying: "Internationalism has to be learned from the family. We have here in the studio participants in the broadcast, representatives of the older generation, who keep asking how young people have turned out the way they are. Young people are a consequence -- it is the parents who have to be reeducated now. We have missed two generations who have become parents -- parents brought up in circumstances in which one day we would tell them that someone was a prominent figure in the international communist movement, and the next he would turn out to be just a garden variety voluntarist. Or else a man who was directly involved in the stagnatory phenomena, but who only yesterday was considered to be virtually the principal strategist of World War II. Where then would they obtain a proper understanding of what was going on outside the window of the auditorium in which we were teaching them those false truths? So the parents have to take some of the blame themselves.

"Clearly there are situations that are not modelled by specific individuals, but which are rather the result of coincidences of circumstances -- historical circumstances, for example. All the same, we should not place all the blame on young people. As it happens, we have wonderful young people, fulfilling their internationalist duty with honesty and purity beyond the boundaries of our multinational fatherland.

"But there are also phenomena of such a nature, because when truths are taught in such a way, skepticism turns from a healthy attitude into cynicism -- this is a genuine phenomenon.

"So we have to educate the two generations of parents, to tell them that they should write the way they live and live the way they write, that is, act at home in the kitchen in accordance with the words you have spoken from the elevated podium. The same thing applies to nationality education. I completely support Omar Sultanovich in this respect. Incidentally, the Ukrainian Union of Writers held a plenum on the question of internationalism. We had an enthusiastic discussion on the issue of our language and we, like our brothers, consider that the optimal solution is to establish obligatory study of the native language -- Ukrainian, for instance -- and of Russian, as the language of internationality unity. This would immediately remove all the sore points. It would take away the trump card.

"You know, incidentally, that there are a great many Ukrainian emigres living abroad. There are some wonderful emigres of working stock, and there are some inveterate nationalists with blood on their hands. This would remove their trump card. I think that in the area of human rights we have already practically scored a success, so to speak, but in this area they are always causing a fuss, talking about russification and enforcement. No, no...I could read you some letters from my fellow countrymen, unfortunately, who write that the Russians pull some strings and fix their children up in Russian schools, while we are not allowed to. What's the use of the Ukrainian language if it is not used in certain spheres of life? This is being written by parents who are Ukrainian to the bone. They have to be educated. As Belinskiy said, if you don't belong to your fatherland, then you don't belong to mankind. But as Saltykov-Shchedrin wrote, patriotism and internationalism as phenomena of the human spirit require daily education."

Zhukov then joins in, saying: "It seems to me that in among all this talk about cultures, about love for one's people or nation, to one's country or fatherland, we sometimes forget what country we're living in. Our country is the USSR -- not Kirghizia, Kazakhstan, or the Ukraine -- but the USSR. That is the way history has worked out. I have travelled a lot around the country. I was in Belorussia in a village where the school teaches in Russian. I was surprised and asked why. The old folk there told me that that is what they wanted, and that nobody had forced it upon them. When I was in the Ukraine, in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, a university student complained to me that they were forced to study Ukrainian although they had spoken Russian all their lives. I came to the view that if we start forcing people to study some language or other and force-feed them with some culture or other, then we should be taking a step backward toward nationalism rather than internationalism. After all, we live in an enormous, multinational country; there's a constant migration of people, and it's difficult to say which people lives where. Look at practically any city and you will see people from all republics. It seems to me that if we were to think less about people's nationality and more about what brings us together and what each nation has in common; if we were to popularize that, it would..."

Borovik interrupts, pointing out: "Lenin remarked about it being best to be indifferent toward the nationality issue -- indifferent in its highest sense. As for the choice of language in which children study, there is a 1937 law stating that parents have the right to choose that language. In my view that's fair."

Oleynik responds: "If I can put forward a personal opinion, I do not fully share your joy over parents choosing the language. After all, in all civilized countries, protection of the linguistic environment is always the prerogative of the state. That is the way it seems to me."

Borovik goes on to mention that the population in many republics is of mixed origin. Oleynik agrees that Russian is essential in many areas of life but that cultural institutes and theaters should concentrate on the local language. Baklanov joins in to say that parents and children should be taught the truth.

He goes on: "I think that every nation — both the adults and the children — in our country ought to know what other nations have done to it. There should be no vagueness here; everything should be out in the open. Our statistical handbooks are very selective. They contain some figures but not others. I think they should contain every figure. All nations ought to know if perhaps one republic is sacrificing too much of its budget for the other republics. If that is the case then its citizens should know about it, and so should all the other citizens. Nothing should be left out.

"In addition, in every nation there are always some sick people — sick with nationalist feeling, perhaps even sick with an animalistic hatred toward other nations. These people ought to be known; they ought to be discussed quite openly, using facts and figures.

"In short, this is a most subtle and painful issue. It is the easiest thing in the world to offend national feelings, and we are merely muffling things with our false words about being a multinational country and having internationalism in our blood. The time has come for us to speak frankly about everything, and to educate both children and adults in that way."

Following a clip from the Soviet documentary "The Value of Truth," showing interviews with Baltic emigres demonstrating for a free Latvia, Artmane is asked to comment from Riga on it and replies: "Well, one person said there that a free country can choose the free path that it wants. We chose this path. If we had heard them and listened to what was being broadcast by the newly organized Western radio, the Voice of America and others, immediately after the war, namely: Don't enroll in higher education establishments; don't use your talent for the good of Soviet power; we will soon return -- we as a nation and our country would have perished.

"I think that the nationalities question always arises, along with any sort of nationalism, where there is a particularly low level of human culture. I feel that it is quite normal that in Vienna there are these elderly people who have been storing up their anger for all these long, long years, whose wish has not been fulfilled, namely, that we here in Latvia might perish as a nation under the pressure of russification, as they say. But we have evolved a culture that the whole country is proud of; nobody can deny this. Until the war nobody knew our Latvian actor anywhere; he wasn't known, either as a stage actor, or as a screen actor. It is not for nothing that our writers were translated so little, as for example, our great Rainis. I feel that all nations in the world should know Rainis, and thanks to the fact that many of Rainis' plays and poetry have been translated into Russian, now he is known and read throughout the world. But at the time they didn't even know what Latvian culture is.

"But our country is very selfless; it is filled with people who love their country very much, and those people who have gathered there in Vienna, I think they do it out of pain over the fact that we have not perished, while they are disappearing over there. No, there cannot be any real national culture outside of one's country, outside of the soil on which you work and where you live. There cannot be a pure, beautiful, maintained national language if behind this language there isn't generation upon generation.

"The little boy who emigrated with his mother already talks with an accent now, while the third generation does not speak Latvian at all. Then how can one talk about russification, when we look after our beautiful language so much.

"As regards his Baltic and Latvian issue, I must say that last year I was on the peace trip on the Mississippi in the United States; I took part as a member of the delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace. Among all the beautiful aspects of how we were welcomed by the very hospitable American people, I saw how strongly and furiously my Latvian brothers behaved: To stand for $7 an hour with an anti-Soviet slogan, and to demonstrate this to me in particular! I thought, Good God!, what an important person I am that they are spending so much money on these demonstrations. Of course, this was trivial, but it was very painful, and I don't think that anybody will ever be able to reconcile us. We will be separate; we can only communicate via business, while, in essence, on vital issues, on political issues, we are totally separated. I don't see any other way for us to draw together apart from business."

There follows a brief discussion between Borovik, Artmane, and a man in the audience on the desirability of cultural exchange between nationalities for better understanding.

Soloukhin then offers the following: "Why is it that over the centuries Uzbeks have remained Uzbeks, Georgians have stayed Georgians, Germans Germans and Russians Russians? Why is it? It is not a matter of genes, because Dal, the author of our wonderful Russian language dictionary was a first generation Dane, a Dane but one who had studied. I have met Russian emigres in the West. By the third generation they have lost all signs of Russian nationality. They do not know the language. They are French, they are Americans. It is not a matter of genes."

Borovik then says: "I am glad that Vladimir Soloukhin has said in our conversation that patriotism is not a genetic feeling, for the theme of mistrust of a people occupies no small place in certain current discussions and debates. The theory is an old one, I would say troglodytic. It is used both by chauvinists and nationalists, by Zionists and anti-Semites -- mistrusting people of another nationality, mistrusting a person if his grandfather was of different blood. This theory means that in case of need one can suspect Gogol of secret nonlove of Russia and a hidden love of Poland, for he was, as we know, a Yanovskiy; one can suspect Pushkin of a criminal love for Ethiopia, Lermontov for Scotland, the Decembrist Kyukhelbekker for Germany."

Lordkipandize then comes in from a Tbilisi studio to talk about his view of internationalism. He cites the example of Boris Pasternak who arranged to have money sent to the wife of a Georgian poet friend of his who had been subjected to repression in 1937, a dangerous thing to do.

Borovik then introduces a film clip about cultural monuments being saved in Leningrad during the war. Zhukov then talks about the importance of cultural monuments of various nationalities for world culture.

A man in the audience interrupts the discussion and expresses disgust at the destruction of the Temple of Christ the Savior as being the destruction of the Russian spirit. Zhukov replies: "You know, there was never a plan to destroy Russian culture. In the first place, you must understand that today we are looking too much to the past." Borovik interrupts, saying: "Of course, we must in no way idealize that period, because, you see, the destruction of a 16th century monastery was an act of barbarism without any doubt.

"But even the destruction of a not very high class of work of art, say, such as the scholars consider the Temple of Christ the Savior to be, perhaps was a big mistake."

Borovik responds to a question on the need for education in cultural values by saying: "You know, our knowledge of history is too poor. It is very important for us to have a good knowledge of history, for us to know our mistakes as well as our glorious pages. At present, unfortunately, there exist groups whose leaders of course are trying to make use precisely of a lack of knowledge of history for speculation, to create a conspiracy theory, so to speak. This very much recalls the methods used in other countries.

"For example, I met in the United States leaders of a society called Minutemen, who were also for the salvation of the United States from Bolshevism. According to them there were KGB agents in the White House, in the UN; Nixon was a KGB agent, and so on. The leaders of that group call many people CIA agents. There is a surprisingly similar phraseology. I think that there are very healthy and fine trends connected with the need to restore culture and cultural values, including damaged knowledge about our roots and about our history, our glorious history. But speculation is something directed, I think, simply for creating, if you like, political opposition. That's how I see it."

Borovik then talks about a medieval custom in England for testing people's faith by ordeal. You threw them in the river: if they drowned they were pure, if they swam to shore they were impure and were burned at the stake. Finally the inventor of the method was put to the test: he failed to sink, and so was burned. Borovik goes on: "I think that when the good healthy parts of the Pamyat Society finally get the fruitful idea to test their leaders for links with the forces of darkness, for the purity, so to speak, of their patriotism, it seems to me that it could be a very useful test."

The program moves to a debate with a group of workers from the Moscow Ordzhonikidze plant on what they think about internationalism. Most express little understanding of the history and culture of the other nationalities within the USSR.

Borovik then sums up, saying: "One of the conclusions that can be made from this conversation of ours is that we have a poor knowledge of our history. We do not know each other sufficiently deeply, how the peoples inhabiting our country live, the history of our interrelationships. We do not know the contribution of each other to our socialist economy, to our culture, to our socialist society.

"Then come prejudices and the possibility of thinking about conspiracies. It is necessary to create a social atmosphere in the country that will make it impossible and impermissible for a representative of one nationality to humiliate another nationality with bad jokes, dirty rumors, haughty lectures, or unfounded suspicions of lack of patriotism. We have built a unique multinational socialist society. This is our common, great achievement. It has stood the test of war and the years of tragedy. But it requires daily, hourly, sensible, frequent, and honest overhaul and strengthening of the construction, because the infection of nationalism and chauvinism, Zionism and anti-Semitism, has been instilled into people for centuries, including by various religions, churches, Catholic churches, synagogues, mosques, and Buddhist temples -- and this infection is alive.

"Not a single one of our peoples has a monopoly on patriotism or on love for our socialist motherland. We live as an enormous family, and let us be tactful with each other; let us believe each other; let us be patient, and only impatient of those who are deliberately trying to violate our great fraternity. Friendship requires unceasing work by the soul, quests, and new solutions. If we have achieved success in instilling internationalism, it does not mean at all that this work can be curtailed. It has no end, it is forever. This must be remembered."

BAGRAMOV ON NATIONALITIES ISSUE, SOCIAL SCIENCE

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[Article by Doctor of Philosophical Sciences Professor E. Bagramov under the rubric "Questions of Theory": "The Nationalities Problem and Social Science"]

[Text] The socialist transformations of national relations and the establishment of friendship and fraternity among peoples are epoch-making achievements of socialism which Soviet people speak of with special pride on the eve of the 70th anniversary of Great October. At the same time a characteristic feature of our time is the public's keen reaction to the as yet uneradicated negative phenomena in the sphere of national relations and the energetic discussion of urgent issues and unresolved tasks. By rejecting the thesis of problem-free national processes and showing that here too, the new has to make its way through contradictions, the 27th CPSU Congress unfettered the thinking of social scientists and created the conditions for a theoretical breakthrough in this sphere of science, which suffered from dogmatism as much as, it not more than others.

In the conditions of the renewal of socialism, the task of consistent implementation of the CPSU nationalities policy, which is founded on scientific analysis and accords with present-day needs, has been stepped up. The CPSU Central Committee resolution "On the Work of the Kazakh Republican Party Organization in the International and Patriotic Education of the Working People" says: "Today, now that the revolutionary processes of renewal cover all aspects of society's life, the timely resolution of the problems arising in the sphere of national relations acquires the greatest significance." This presupposes a profound mastery of Lenin's legacy and the ability to assess the dynamics of national relations with fresh eyes, free from stereotyped formulas. The justified criticism of social scientists at the Central Committee January (1987) plenum demands that the gulf between scientific research and reality be overcome.

In theoretical work this was reflected in the rejection of realistic analysis of the problems arising, the substitution of the mechanical collecting of facts and figures about the Soviet republics' life for the study of living reality, the confining of scientific thought solely to individual concepts and definitions (the definition of a nation, abstract ideas on the future of languages, and so forth), the endless regurgitation of generalities, and the patently inadequate study of questions of a nationalities policy appropriate to the present stage of the country's development. On the basis of a simplistic understanding of the thesis of the resolution of the nationalities question in our country, certain social scientists represented the state of national relations solely in a rosy light, statically, and metaphysically. Apparently some social scientists lacked philosophical maturity in describing these socioeconomic and spiritual processes, which M.S. Gorbachev described as very complex and contradictory by their very nature.

Relations between nations and ethnic groups are a living process of complex interaction between the national and the international, where the new is established in the course of a constant struggle with the old, not discarding it entirely, but updating and retaining everything valuable and positive.

It is important also to correctly understand the nature of the nationalities problem itself, which never existed anywhere in, so to speak, a pure form, but has always incorporated the totality of economic, social class, and spiritual relations determining mutual ties among peoples. The restructuring of these relations gives rise to profound changes in national relations too, but by virtue of the relative autonomy of the nationalities factor, which has deep roots in history, here it will be necessary for a long time to go on dealing with the inertia of obsolete traditions.

The class approach is the true path to a clarification of the concrete content of nationalities problems, and precludes any emasculation of their essence or exaggeration of the national principle. The attempt to represent the nationalities factor as some kind of survival, an obstacle in the path of social development, is also incorrect.

Internationalization has often been spoken of as a standardization of everyone and everything, as a result of which this multifaceted and highly fertile process has been depicted as a lifeless abstraction. With this approach, if, say, the actual equality of peoples was considered, it was viewed as static, without the inevitable differences between regions. The illusory idea was gradually insinuated that society is moving of its own accord, all but automatically, toward ever increasing fraternity among the peoples, and ultimately the merging of nations.

Naturally, it is wrong to go to extremes and forget that there were bold articles by scientists, writers, and journalists, as well as substantial works and well founded recommendations on how to improve matters. All the same, in practice the sphere of national relations was regarded as above criticism and treated as a zone of universal harmony, and whatever did not fit into that harmony was simply discarded and branded a manifestation of bourgeois nationalism. In effect many real needs and requirements both of statewide and of national development were ignored, and scientists often did not go so far as to raise these questions.

Thus the logical transition in the fifties and sixties from excessive centralization to the widening of the rights of union republics was not properly dealt with in the works of social scientists: There was no clear and precise concept of the relationship between the unionwide and the local, the international and the national. Ways of overcoming unhealthy trends were not reflected in scientific literature.

The Central Committee June (1987) plenum drew attention to the need to take into account the entire range of interests -- of the individual, the collective, classes, nations, ethnic groups, and social and professional groups. An important part of the restructuring is the harmonization of national and republican interests with the interests of the whole people and the whole state. The party is formulating new ways and forms of influencing people's interests, cultivating them, and directing them through the new machinery of economic management and democratic institutions, through politics, ideology, and culture. Here, instead of abstract discussions of internationalism, it is necessary to study the machinery of the implementation of the nationalities policy. For instance, the question of the actual, economic equality of peoples should be linked more closely to social justice. The diversity of regional and national conditions does not preclude the formulation of a single measure of labor and consumption so as to ensure that acquisition everywhere takes place on the basis of common criteria in the evaluation of labor and its results.

By overcoming departmentalism and parochialism, the party creates opportunities for the concentration of resources in the decisive avenues of scientific and technical progress, and this benefits the whole country and each republic individually. It is important to take full account of specific national features and support healthy avenues of development of local initiative, not allowing it to be controlled by bureaucratic centralism.

Nationalities policy must not be interpreted one-sidedly, with the emphasis either on the flourishing of nations or on their rapprochement. Restructuring means establishing everywhere the CPSU's Leninist course -- attention to the people's specific features and needs in the name of international cohesion, without creating any conflict between cadres.

In the context of the growth of democratic principles in all spheres of our life, the processes of the spiritual life of nations and ethnic groups, in particular linguistic processes, are being discussed with animation. Concern for one's native tongue and its development in interaction with the Russian language is only natural. But here we encounter both legitimate demands and the deliberate dramatization of linguistic processes, especially among writers. Language is the most important means of contact. But that is not all; it is also part of a nation's spiritual wealth, binding the individual to his native localities, the people's creativity, and the national culture. A knowledge of languages is a component of the working person's business skills. It was no accident that in making appointments to state posts in a national republic and in other cases, Lenin inquired about the officials' ability to express themselves in the language of its people. For the intelligentsia, above all the artistic intelligentsia, this is a profession, and naturally its representatives, those who work with words, show a special interest in the spread of the national language. The most important thing is to ensure that a legitimate love for one's native tongue does not turn into linguistic chauvinism, which would be a barrier in the path of internationalization.

Lack of attention toward the language of the people among whom you live leads to entirely justified protests. Those who think that a free choice of the language used for teaching relieves them or their children of the duty to show respect for the local language, traditions, and culture of the people are, of course, wrong. It is a question of the tact, the standard of intercourse between nations characteristic of the vast majority of Soviet people, who are educated in the spirit of internationalism. However, practice shows that the deterioration, in a number of cases, in the teaching of the national language is due, as a rule, to the poor training of teaching cadres and the shortage of such cadres. But some authors (in Estonia, for instance) set up their native language in opposition to the language of intercourse between nations. The good practice whereby schools operate with parallel classes (in the native language and Russian), which was once widespread in Latvia, merits broad support.

Bilingualism in the national language and Russian is the main avenue of linguistic development in the USSR. This does not change the legal position of the languages. But their equality does not mean that their social functions are identical. Thus Russian as the language of intercourse between nations is the generally recognized means whereby the masses have access to the culture of the peoples of the USSR and the world. Any demand for administrative restrictions on the use of Russian has nothing in common with true concern for the development of the native language and national culture. It is also hard to agree, especially in the conditions of the democratization of our life, with the proposal that the question of which school, using which language, to send children to should be decided not by the parents, but by the ministries.

Thus Marxists are for equality and free development of languages and against national privileges. "The Soviet republic unites working people of all nations and defends the interests of working people without distinguishing between nations," Lenin noted (Vol 36, p 536). The USSR Constitution is based on this. That is Leninist!

Soviet citizens treat national feelings with respect. At the same time they are against speculation on these feelings.

Theoretical and methodological clarity is necessary in the concepts "national" and "nationalist." The times when social scientists avoided giving a thoughtful analysis of the term "national" (fearing, not without reason, to acquire a reputation of having nationalist tendencies) are far behind us. Nonetheless philosophers have still not fully determined in what conditions the national, as a phenomenon inherent in socialism, turns into the nationalist, as its diametrical opposite.

Here is a characteristic situation. In relations between neighboring rayons or oblasts in different republics, misunderstandings arise from time to time, and sometimes even disputes. People argue among themselves in the corridors. But party and soviet workers keep quiet and avoid taking principled decisions, making no attempt to forestall difficulties or quell passions. Perhaps the questions are too sensitive and complex. But why not use such a democratic method as the study of public opinion in order to clarify the sides' feelings on a particular question?

Manifestations of nationalism have traditionally been explained in terms of "consciousness lagging behind life." Did we not thereby turn this formula into a kind of universal solution, so that analysis ended just where it should be beginning? It is important to study the totality of objective and subjective factors influencing the survival of unhealthy sentiments. This includes economic irregularities, violations of Soviet laws and Leninist principles of cadre policy, poor educational work, and tolerance of such sentiments.

Obviously national interests, national self-awareness, and a sense of national dignity are real attributes of our life. And unless these phenomena of spiritual life are modified by class awareness, unless we show international responsibility, it is easy to sink into the exaggeration and even the absolutization of the national. From the viewpoint of social psychology this is ethnocentrism, looking at other peoples from the perspective of the values of your own ethnic community. Nationalism consists in elevating a sense of your own nation and its mission to the point of exclusiveness.

There is a sure way not to sink into nationalism or chauvinism -- adhere to the class positions of the equality of working people of all nations, do not think only about your own nation, but put the interests of everyone above it. Leninism teaches us this: National interests must be defended not from the position of the isolation of peoples, but conversely, from the position of the working people's international fraternity.

This is indicated, in particular, by the setting up of a commission to examine the problems of the Crimean Tatars. Soviet people received this as evidence of the Soviet organs' intention to study the question comprehensively, taking into account the interests of all peoples, and to adopt a decision in accordance with the traditions of friendship among the USSR's peoples.

Socialism has refuted the myth that antagonism between nations is ineradicable. The national factor in our country has long since ceased to divide people. [paragraph continues]

Nonetheless the susceptibility of a section of the population to national problems is still comparatively marked, by virtue of historical factors and the country's multinational nature. Incidentally, bourgeois ideologists count on this, channeling their efforts into fanning and inflating national feelings and setting national and international values against each other.

The establishment of internationalism demands persistent efforts -- the lessons of the Alma-Ata incident and the struggle that has been launched against negative phenomena in Kazakhstan and other republics teach us this. It must be said frankly that the theoretical studies of the public awareness of the population of the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan patently lacked realism and indulged in idealization. The leap from feudalism to socialism was a major achievement of the Soviet system, but in the existing conditions it had its defects too -- the inadequate stratum of working-class national cadres, the survival of vestiges of tribal relations, and so forth. The rapid growth of national self-awareness in conjunction with the lack of concern for international education is fraught with the danger of one-sided orientation toward specifically national features.

In the popular book "A Journey to Zher-uyuk" ["Puteshestviye v Zher-uyuk"] published in the seventies, the following assessment of the peoples' characters is put into the mouth of an old Kazakh bard: The Ukrainian is noted for his cheerful demeanor, the Georgian for hospitality, the Armenian for industriousness, the Russian for love of the motherland and courage, the Estonian for zeal, the Tajik for the thirst for knowledge, and the Kazakh for all these qualities put together. How great, however, is the desire to gratify national self-esteem! How contrary this is to the traditions of the people that gave the world Chokan Balikhanov and Abay Kunanbayev!

It is no secret that it is above all subjective evaluations that are manifested in the understanding of national character. Stereotyped opinions about the peoples have gained wide currency, and these are far from always harmless. They are to a considerable degree the foundation for the persisting insulting assessments of people's national dignity, manifested as everyday nationalism or chauvinist arrogance, against which an effective struggle is by no means always waged.

How are these opinions to be separated from the real peculiarities of national character? It is necessary to study in depth a people's history, culture, traditions, and everyday life, since it is here that the true characteristics of the people's soul are imprinted. Socialism ennobles national feelings by eradicating from them the features of past isolation, egotism, and intolerance.

In our day there is growing interest in the historical past, monuments of national culture, folklore, and so forth. But why do those who would like to set the peoples against each other for national reasons latch on to this, which is a sacred cause for the Soviet person? If they declare themselves "patriots," that means that we are doing poor work in the propaganda of Soviet patriotism as an ideology incompatible with the concept of national exclusivity -- be it chauvinism, Zionism, or other manifestations of national arrogance. It must not be forgotten that all the peoples are linked by the common historical fate of the peoples of the USSR and the international traditions of fighters for socialism.

It is hard to find in peoples living in the conditions of one and the same socioeconomic formations characterological features which would be totally alien to another nation. Specific national characters should clearly be sought in the unique combination of qualities which are common to people in general, in the particular expression of this or that trait, and not in the existence of exclusive signs. [paragraph continues]

Thus the task of the scientist and artist is not to emphasise uniquely psychological differences, but to uncover the diverse forms of the manifestation of what is common to all mankind, what is new and was born of socialism and the development of a social and international community -- the Soviet people.

The fear of uncovering national problems in psychology (as if Marxism-Leninism had not developed a scientific methodology for the study of the psychology of the nation and national relations) led to a situation where for long years social scientists did not study these phenomena. Recently, research into real national processes has begun to get under way. Let me observe that what is especially necessary now is not isolated studies by historians, philosophers, and so forth, but comprehensive interdisciplinary work.

The interests of proletarian solidarity, to quote Lenin, demand "that we never take a formal view of the nationalities question..." (Vol 45, p 360). This must also be understood as meaning that there can be no final, once-and-for-all solution to any of mankind's highly complex problems. Every new stage poses new problems. That will probably be the case for as long as nations exist.

BATALIN ADDRESSES TURKMEN AKTIV; FAILURES NOTED

LD131459 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] Tasks in the radical restructuring of the republic's construction complex in the light of the decisions of the June 1987 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee were discussed at a meeting of the party and economic aktiv of Turkmenistan which took place today at Ashkhabad. The meeting's participants spoke of the need for a cardinal change in the work of industry and for a transfer to economic methods of management. A central point of this work is the transfer of enterprises and organizations to complete financial autonomy and self-financing, and the development of team-contracting.

Meanwhile, in Turkmenistan, the rates for the introduction of this progressive method of labor organization have fallen. In the 7 months of this year, throughout the republic, not one of the basic indicators in the plan for capital construction has been fulfilled. It is essential in the near future to establish homegrown design organizations for preparing industrial construction projects and to become seriously engaged in the development of the engineering and repair base of the republic's Construction Ministry, stressed the speakers. Specific measures have been mapped out to eliminate interruptions to the construction process.

The meeting was addressed by Batalin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the USSR State Construction Committee; and Niyazov, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan.

CRIMEAN TATARS MEET AT UZBEK CP CENTRAL COMMITTEE

PM131520 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 2 Aug 87 p 1

[Uztag report: "Working Meeting With Representatives of the Crimean Tatars"]

[Excerpts] A meeting took place at the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee on 31 July between representatives of Crimean Tatars belonging to party, soviet, and public organizations, workers in culture, art, science, and production front-runners of the republic, and I.B. Usmankhodzhayev, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, member of the state commission to examine the entire range of problems raised in statements by citizens from among the Crimean Tatars.

V.I. Bessarabov, chief of a sector at the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Department and leader of a working party of the state commission, took part in the meeting.

The participants in the meeting unanimously approved the creation of the authoritative commission headed by A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, to examine the entire range of problems raised in statements by citizens from among the Crimean Tatars, and expressed confidence that the commission will carry out an objective study and draw up proposals which will promote the adoption of the just decisions in accordance with the traditions of friendship among the peoples of the multinational Soviet state.

The speakers roundly condemned the provocative actions by self-styled representatives of the Crimean Tatars not only in Moscow, but also in Uzbekistan, the crude attempts to bring pressure to bear on the organs of state power, the desire to make contact with employees of foreign embassies, and the formation of direct links with workers at the U.S. Embassy. During the meeting a united opinion was expressed on the impermissibility of the provocateurs' actions, which violate the norms of public life. A proposal was put forward that the soviets of people s deputies and law enforcement organs take resolute measures to cut short antisocial and other illegal actions. In view of this, the soviet ispolkoms have adopted an appropriate decision.

During the meeting many of the participants put forward a proposal on the creation of a working commission from among worthy representatives of the Crimean Tatars living in the oblasts of Uzbekistan. Taking into account this proposal as well as the numerous requests received by republican party and soviet organs, during the work of the commission headed by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman, a working commission was formed from among the Crimean Tatars, consisting of 11 people, to examine the range of problems raised in appeals and statements by citizens of Crimean Tatar nationality. [passage omitted]

The commission started work, in conjunction with the working party from the state commission which had arrived from Moscow.

UZBEK PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM MEETS

PM171330 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Aug 87 Second Edition p 2

[PRAVDA correspondent V. Artemenko report under the rubric "Communists Discuss the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum Decisions" and the general heading "Overcoming Inertia": "Uzbekistan"]

[Text] Tashkent -- The republican party organization, it was noted at the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee plenum, is waging an intensive struggle to eradicate the consequences of the stagnation and negative phenomena which became established here in previous years. Party and state discipline is strengthening and the responsibility of cadres is increasing. The volume of industrial output has increased and growth rates have speeded up in a number of sectors of the national economy. Certain positive changes have also emerged in other sectors. Effective new approaches, forms, and methods of work are gathering pace in the party committees and primary party organizations of Tashkent, Managan, Syr-Darya, and Khorezm Oblasts.

At the same time the changes are not yet of a radical nature, stated the keynote speaker, I. Usmankhodzhayev, first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee. There are many places which the restructuring has not really reached yet. An alarming trend has emerged for a number of party committees to lag behind the new processes and phenomena which are growing in society. Many major decisions on accelerating socioeconomic development are being implemented too slowly.

Great concern is caused, for instance, by the state of affairs in Samarkand Oblast. Here economic indicators are deteriorating from year to year. Exactingness toward cadres has fallen. Monitoring of the fulfillment of party directives and their own decisions is slack. The obkom bureau and its first secretary, R. Ashuraliyev, have yet to make the transition from calling for restructuring to actually renewing the style and methods of party leadership. Serious shortcomings are inherent in the work of Karakalpak, Andizhan, and Bukhara Obkoms.

The keynote and debate speakers including D. Zazulin, team leader at the Uzbekshakhtostroy trust, P. Khudayerov, director of the Iskra Sovkhoz in Surkhan-Darya Oblast, and S. Rakhmanova, direct of the Kokand sewn goods factory, pointed out that people have not yet everywhere displayed concern for reliable organizational and ideological backup for the restructuring. Obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms and primary party organizations are not seeking substantial changes in the entire tone of the labor collectives' political and production life. Evidence of this is provided by the 7-month results. During this period last year the rate of growth of industrial production totaled 7.6 percent, while this year it was only 1.2 percent. A total of 296 enterprises failed to meet contractural commitments. An especially marked lag occurred in Andizhan Oblast, where the plan for output deliveries was 94.1 percent fulfilled. The shortfall in consumer goods in Bukhara Oblast amounted to R6.5 million.

The situation in construction was spoken of with alarm. Thus the annual plan for the commissioning of fixed capital was only 32 percent fulfilled, for housing 46 percent, and for children's preschool institutions 30 percent. As before, the capacities of house building combines are being poorly utilized. In Surkhan-Darya Oblast, for instance, the house building combines' capacities are only 35 percent utilized, and in Syr-Darya 46 percent. Here the role of the collective contract is underestimated and other reserves for acceleration are kept back. It was proposed that in the near future the whole range of questions connected with the resolution of the housing problem be examined at a session of the republic Supreme Soviet.

There was sharp criticism of the republican State Agro-industrial Committee and its leadership. On last year's results, 446 kolkhozes and sovkhozes suffered great losses. This year too, plans for purchases of livestock products are not being fulfilled in the Karakalpak ASSR and in Andizhan, Kashka-Darya, Bukhara, Dzhizak, and Navoi Oblasts. In a number of oblasts a lag is occurring in the cultivation of cotton plants, feed procurement, and the delivery of vegetables and fruit to the union-republican stocks.

The CPSU Central Committee has already severely criticized the republic twice this year for the chronic laggardness in agriculture. This situation, in the general opinion, can no longer be tolerated. M. Mirkasymov, first secretary of Khorezm Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee Obkom, K. Salykov, first secretary of Karakalpak Obkom, S. Abdukadyrov, director of the Pushkin Sovkhoz in Syr-Darya Oblast, and others noted that all the organizational and political work of party committees must be channeled into ensuring high efficiency of land utilization and introducing progressive techniques, economic accountability, and the collective and family contract.

One urgent problem for Uzbekistan is how to employ the working-age population in social production. Hundreds of thousands of people do not work at present. From last year around 300 enterprises in the republic have gone over to an increased shift system, which has made it possible to bring another 13,000 people into production. But in, say, Tashkent and Samarkand Oblasts, at one-half of the plants and factories the shift index is only 1-1.2. It is also necessary to build major new enterprises. In this connection there were serious complaints about the union ministries.

There was a keen discussion of cadres. The speakers noted that they should be armed as quickly as possible with a knowledge of concrete economics and economic management methods. Approaches to the selection of leadership workers should also be improved. More than 15,000 leaders at various levels have been elected in the republic through frank, open discussion and voting. As a rule these are energetic, enterprising people who enjoy the collectives' trust. But there are instances, and not just isolated ones, where with the arrival of a leadership elected by voting, the state of affairs in the collective, far from improving, actually deteriorates. People who have compromised themselves are not infrequently elected to responsible posts, factionalism manifests itself, and local and family or tribal ties have an effect.

The activity of the republican government and ministries and departments was analyzed searchingly. There are still many omissions here.

Deputy chairmen of the republican Council of Ministers and Gosplan seldom visit us and do not give us much help, B. Khakimov, chairman of Namagan Oblispolkom, said, in particular. Instead of giving practical and methodological help, they, like the officials of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers Administration of Affairs, only come here to make checks of various kinds and seek only the negative aspects of our work...

The work style of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee was also assessed critically. Recently, the speakers admitted, there has been a more businesslike, practical approach to topical problems of the republic's socioeconomic development. Important decisions are being made. But the organization of work and monitoring of fulfillment of plans are still weak.

The plenum defined ways of improving the organizational and educational activity of party committees and party organizations at all levels. [paragraph continues]

The task was set of energetically overcoming stagnation and inertia in every sector, developing the labor collectives' initiative more persistently, and generalizing and disseminating more rapidly the best experience of work in the new economic management conditions.

NEW CHAIRMAN OF STATISTICS COMMITTEE NAMED

AU171349 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 15 Aug 87 p 4

["Decree of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves to appoint Comrade Aleksandr Ivanovich Troyan chairman of the State Committee of the Ukrainian SSR for Statistics.

[Signed] V. Shevchenko, chairman, and N. Khomenko, secretary of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium.

City of Kiev, 13 August 1987

YAKOVLEV CAUTIONS AGAINST 'EXTREMISM'

PM121257 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 32, 9 Aug 87 p 3

[Yegor Yakovlev commentary: "Perestroyka: Procrastination Is Harmful"]

[Text] Haste is undesirable but procrastination is harmful. This is said many times over about perestroyka.

Making haste taking no account of the conditions, or of people's thinking today is as dangerous as it is to act contrary to instructions which became obsolete yesterday but which are still valid. In short, as Lenin counseled: "We must show sound scepticism for too rapid progress...."

At this point some people might say: as regards glasnost, we too are always making haste and now and then we get carried away. But you'll agree that you cannot hand out one measure of glasnost today and a different measure tomorrow. Glasnost can either exist or not exist. And the attending danger is entirely different. Some officials unfortunately still think that glasnost is only a cause for joy, not for reproach and it is tolerated as long as it causes no trouble. Such views are hardly up-to-date. They are backward, and backwardness is baneful.

Let's elaborate on that. Let's go back to our recent past — April of 1985 — to see the steep path we have climbed in just over two years. We are worried that things are moving slower than we expected, and more often than not blame the bureaucrats for this. Well, we have many grounds for doing so. In the meantime, a whole crop of executives has taken root and started to shoot up who know in the minutest detail how things SHOULD NOT BE DONE while they have to understanding of how things SHOULD BE DONE. But attributing all the reasons for procrastination to bureaucratism is wrong because it takes too many forms. Experience has repeatedly warned us against doing this.

It is, for instance, worthwhile to talk of things which are making themselves felt especially of late. I mean those things which lend to our life the unacceptable spirit of extremism. [paragraph continues]

These include statements by heads of the Pamyat association who would wish to divide our society into the pure and the impure, into Christians and non-Christians, anti-Masons (I've met some among the leaders of the Pamyat) and Masons (These I've never seen). Or the rash moves by the extremists from among the Crimean Tatars who believe that their unlawful actions will help solve in just four days a problem which unfortunately, but it is true, has not been tackled during the 40 years of its existence. There are, finally, publications which maintain that perestroyka "has only given birth to another wave of bureaucracy". Trying to disprove similar things would be tantamount to arguing with the propagandists of Pamyat, who insist that the Metro lines in the heart of Moscow have been dug specially so that the government buildings above them will fall through into them.

Extremism is no basis for argument. It cannot be tolerated today because, in the final analysis, it pursues antidemocratic goals and thus can foster a new braking mechanism. This is because extremes are always countered by extremes. Because some who write for the press turn to the masses in a bid to intimidate those officials who are still only forming their opinions regarding the changes taking place. Thus they are told as it were: "Why don't you do something about it? You are looking for trouble."

We say plainly that we are learning democracy. But time drives us along. We are to master without delay those democratic habits which would make it possible to overcome all that stands in the way of our democratic development.

STATISTICS SERVICE REPORTS DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Alcohol Sales Drop

LD180918 Moscow TASS in English 0636 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 18 TASS — Alcohol sales in Soviet Union are continuing on the decline, with 20 percent less liquors and wines (in comparable prices) marketed in the country in the first seven months of the year as compared with the same period of 1986, a government statistics service reported.

In January through July 1987, the USSR State Statistical Committee said, liquor stores and restaurants sold some 75 million decaliters of vodka and other strong drinks, a drop of 25 percent from the first seven months of last year. Wine sales fell by about the same margin.

Champagne, the traditional beverage for celebrations, was the only alcohol drink holding its ground. In fact, it sold even more briskly than last year. Beer sales remained at the same level as before.

Mortality Rate Plummets

LD171200 Moscow TASS in English 0626 GMT 15 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS — The mortality rate in the USSR has dropped sharply for the first time in many years, according to the USSR statistical committee.

It reported that in terms of relative indices (that is per 100,000 people), the rate fell by 20 percent last year as compared with 1985.

Experts put the drop down first of all to the anti-drink campaign under way in the country. This is borne out by statistics as well: Last year a total of 109 in every 100,000 people died as a result of accidents, which compared favorably with 145 in 1985 and 169 in 1980.

The mortality rate resulting for cardio-vascular diseases also decreased by ten percent. The decline was mostly registered in the able-bodied category of the population.

Large Families Increase

LD171207 Moscow TASS in English 0836 GMT 15 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS — The number of families with two and three children has increased in the USSR as a result of government measures aimed at expanding aid to families with many children, the Soviet Statistics committee said. A total of 5,611,000 children was born in the USSR last year, of them roughly 30 per cent were second children and 761,000 — third.

The tendency to have one child in the family became predominant in the European part of the country since the 60s. Now, however, the situation seems to be changing, at least in the countryside. There are nearly twice as many families with three children now, as compared with 1970.

Another trend has emerged: In the Asian part of the country, where families are traditionally large, the number of children in the family starts to decline. For example, the average number of births per woman has dropped from 6.0 to 4.7 in Turkmenia and from 5.7 to 4.7 in Uzbekistan.

The average birth rate in the country is 2.5

SMOLENSK STORMS DESTROY CROPS, INSTALLATIONS

LD131050 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1025 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] Smolensk, 13 Aug (TASS) -- Storms have continued for the whole of last week in Smolensk Oblast (center of European part of USSR). Hail fell on the oblast center. The diameter of the hailstones was 23mm on average, but there were also some bigger than that.

In 3 days the normal rainfall for 1 and 1/2 months fell, and the wind reached hurricane force. Farms in a number of rayons were affected. Small rivers and streams flowed more strongly than in spring. Bread and foodstuffs are being delivered to some villages by boat.

Altogether in the oblast over 60 houses and 37 animal husbandry and production installations at kolkhozes and sovkhozes were destroyed; electricity cables were put out of operation in several rayons, and irreparable damage was done to the harvest on thousands of hectares of grain and flax, a TASS correspondent was told at the oblast commission for eliminating the consequences of the natural calamity. Fortunately, there were no casualities. All those affected have been provided with living accommodation, medical and material help. Repair teams have gone out to the villages. Student detachments and troops have gone to help.

Clouds are still hanging over most parts of the oblast with a leaden weight today. The rain is continuing.

PRAVDA REPORTS STATISTICS ON GRAIN HARVEST

PM141045 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Aug 87 Second Edition p 2

[L. Ivanov "Agricultural Review": "Following the Grain Trail"]

[Excerpts] The USSR State Committee for Statistics reports:

The harvest, which began later than last year, is gradually gathering speed. By 10 August grain and pulse crops (excluding corn) had been harvested from 38.4 million hectares and threshed from 32.4 million hectares. Feed procurement is continuing. On the farms 62.4 million tonnes of hay, 69.1 millions tonnes of haylage, and 18.3 million tonnes of silage have been laid in. As before, the vegetable operation is working in fits and starts. Some 3.6 million tonnes of truck garden products have been purchased. [passage omitted]

Like last year, the Kuban farmers are gladdening us with their successes. Having cultivated a good crop, they are now striving to deliver it to granaries more quickly. The region's elevators have already received 2.7 million tonnes of grain. The fact that 95 percent of it is durum and valuable wheat, for which farms are paid sizeable financial bonuses to the purchase price, is also gratifying.

The first million tonnes of grain have reached the procurement points in the Stavropol region. [passage omitted]

V. Simbirskiy, chief of the USSR Ministry of Grain Products Main Administration for Organizing State Purchases of Grain and Oil Plant Crops, comments:

"I must note that it is not only the people of Kuban and Stavropol who have worked quite well this year in the fields, particularly the intensive ones. A good crop has been cultivated in many regions of the country, including the Ukraine, Belorussia, and the Central Chernozem Zone. Uzbekistan, which has already dealt with the plan for selling eared grain crops, farms in Andizhan Oblast threshed an average of 34.1 quintals of grain, in Namangan Oblast the figure was 27.1 quintals and in Fergana Oblast 25.4 quintals [per hectare]. Grain sales by kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Dzhambul Oblast are in excess of the plan. Farms in Azerbaijan SSR and Crimean, Poltava, and Chimkent Oblasts are fulfilling contract pledges successfully."

This news is pleasing. But there is also alarming news. It is distressing that in certain regions last year's mistakes are being repeated. When the grain has been threshed, they do not hurry to send it to the granary but let it lie at the farms for a long time. [passage omitted]

The sale of grain from certain farms in Kirovograd Oblast is slow. As of 10 August 1,417,000 tonnes of grain had been threshed here, yet only 516,000 tonnes had been sent to the state granaries. A large amount of grain has accumulated on the threshing floors on a number of farms in Cherkassy and Chernigov Oblasts. [passage omitted]

RSFSR GRAIN HARVESTING PROGRESS REVIEWED

PM141725 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Aug 87 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report "for SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA": "Grain Headed for the Granary"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Things are going well in Voronezh Oblast, where around 1 million metric tons of grain have been produced. Many farms and rayons are continuing above-plan grain supplies in order to pay off last year's arrears. There are many examples of this in Belgorod and Lipetsk Oblasts. It must be said that in recent days the pace of grain supplies from farms in a number of autonomous republics and oblasts in the Volga-Vyatka and Central regions has markedly increased.

"Certainly, in terms of their significance, grain procurements have always been among the tasks of paramount importance," RSFSR Grain Products Minister N. Golub said, commenting on the data. "And it is no coincidence that the peasant calls them his first commandment. That is why the grain reception centers made such painstaking preparations for the campaign. I must mention that this year not only have elevator capacities increased substantially, but, and this is equally important, new fixed mechanized reception installations have been introduced, ensuring the simultaneous unloading of up to 13,000 trucks, including around 7,500 trailer trucks and Kama Truck Plant vehicles. Drying capacities have increased, and more than 2 million metric tons of grain can now be dried in a 24-hour period.

What is the plus side? They are operating efficiently in Krasnodarskiy Kray, where more than 2.7 million metric tons of grain have been procured, which is nealy 93 percent of the specified volume of grain sales. That excludes corn and rice. The kray's farms have sold 2.36 million metric tons of wheat to the state, including 1,445,000 tons of strong wheat -- nearly double the plan. In all they have procured 2,205,000 metric tons of high-quality wheat, or 93 percent of the entire purchase.

The state granaries are filling up. Krasnodarskiy Kray, Rostov Oblast and Kabardino-Balkar and North Osetian ASSR's have fulfilled plans for the sale of strong wheat. In the North Caucasus and Central Chernozem Zone many farms and rayons are supplying above-plan grain, which, as is known, attracts considerable material incentives.

At the same time, an analysis of grain procurements shows that in a number of autonomous republics and oblasts many farmers are failing to exploit all the opportunities for more active grain sales, citing harvest shortfalls and changeable weather.

Grain procurements are slow in a number of rayons in Volgograd, Tambov, Kursk, Ulyanovsk, Kuybyshev, Saratov, Ryazan, Orel, Penza, and Tula Oblasts. In Saratov Oblast they have threshed the grain on more than 30 percent of the harvested area. A considerable quantity of grain has accumulated at kolkhoz and sovkhoz threshing floors, while little more than 80,000 metric tons have been sold to the state.

In Ryazan Oblast they are harvesting grain at the rate of over 20 quintals per hectare with daily threshings of up to 100,000 metric tons, but on average no more than 30,000-35,000 metric tons were delivered to grain reception centers between 3 and 10 August.

Because of the extremely show pace of deliveries to grain reception centers considerable quantities have accumulated at farms in Gorkiy, Tula, Penza, Kursk, Tambov, and other oblasts. The grain is settling on threshing floors, which is not what you would call a normal situation.

MEDIA REPORT 12-15 AUG AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

12-13 August

LD150056 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 12, 13 August. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

12 August

Harvesting is in its final stages in Belgorod Oblast. Early spring crops are being gathered on the second half of the area. Rain has made the work more difficult. (0801)

Mass harvesting is underway in Kurgan Oblast. Attention is being paid to reducing losses after a summer drought. (0801)

In Stavropolye, threshing of cereals has ended. Bread grains ripened 2 weeks later than usual and threshing had to be done amid frequent rain and hail. However, by concentrating the machine pool in 790 mobile harvesting and transport complexes the machine operators managed to keep to their schedules, preventing the ears from shedding on the stalk or being damaged in the swathes. (0900)

More than 100,000 tonnes of bread grain has been sold to the state in Mordovia. This is one third of the plan. (1100)

Hay cutting is underway in Tyumen Oblast. Ishimskiy Rayon has completed its plan for hay procurement, with 50,000 tonnes. (1300)

13 August

In Perm Oblast, 500,000 tonnes of hay had been procured by today. (0204)

To date, 100,000 tonnes of spring wheat has been sold to the state in Saratov Oblast. (Moscow Television Service in Russian, 0600)

Mari ASSR farmers have sown 10,000 hectares of the winter crop fields. In all, they have to sow winter crops on 140,000 hectares. (Moscow Television Service in Russian, 0600)

The sowing of winter rye has begun in the Maritime Kray. Along with the traditional varieties created by Far Eastern plant-breeders, the farmers are sowing for the first time seeds of the cereal Saratovskaya-4. It adapts easily to the local climate and is resistant to cold. No less than 25,000 hectares will be taken up by winter rye this year. (1100)

Today, the farms of south Turkmenia began sowing for the first time a new variety of feed crop: (tifona). It is a hybrid of chinese cabbage and turnip. More than 6,000 hectares of irrigated land will be taken up by the hybrid in Karakumy and the Kopet-Dag Valley. (Tifona) will be used as a catch crop. It has a very high nutritional level. It is resistant to cold, responds well to mineral fertilizer, and is fast-ripening. (1100)

Bread grain has been threshed on 2 million hectares in Rostov Oblast. The farmers of the oblast already have supplied state granaries with more than 1.2 million tonnes of newly reaped bread grain. (1500)

Krasnodar Kray has harvested more than 2.7 million tonnes of grain. Voronezh Oblast has delivered around 1 million tonnes of grain to the elevators. Rostov Oblast, and the Kabardino-Balkar and North Ossetian ASSR's have fulfilled their strong-wheat sales plans. (Moscow Television Service in Russian, 1700)

Harvesting of grain is now in progress in 45 autonomous republics, krays, and oblasts in the RSFSR. However, grain is just lying around on the threashing floors in Gorkiy, Tula, Penza, and a number of other oblasts; this cannot be called normal. (1950)

14-15 August

LD162333 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 14, 15 August. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

14 August

The farms of the agro-industrial complex of Ryazan Oblast today started selling the 500,000th tonne of grain to the state. This is almost three-quarters of the plan. The harvest, especially of winter rye and wheat, is quite a good one. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Starozhilovskiy, Ryazanskiy, Sarayskiy, and a few other rayons are gathering 28 quintals of grain per hectare. (0600)

Kirgizia's farms have started harvesting corn for silage. Some 100,000 hectares are under this fodder crop in the republic and from each one it is expected to receive no less than 400 quintals of green bulk. A considerable part of it will be trenched for winter storage. This year some 3,000,000 tonnes of nutritious fodder will be procured for the public sector herd. (0600)

Harvesting news: The second cutting of grasses is getting underway and the mass harvesting of grain crops has begun. The latter have been put in swathes on an area of half a million hectares. Capacities of more than 100 grain-receiving stations have significantly grown. (1330)

Farmers in Kirgizia's Issyk-Kul Oblast have begun sales of grain to the state. The farms that have so far delivered grain have produced more than 45 quintals of grain per hectare. (2130)

15 August

In Uzbekistan, the pace of fodder harvesting is high. As of today, nearly 1 million tonnes more have been harvested than last year. At the same time, the situation with haylage-laying is difficult; as little as half of last year's amount has been procured so far. The work is particularly slow in Bukhara, in Andizhan Oblast. (0204)

Harvesting of eared and pulse crops has ended in the Kuban. The harvest is good; nearly 40 quintals per hectare for wheat and more in the case of winter barley. (0500)

The plan for grain sales to the state has been fulfilled in the Karachayevo-Cherkessk Autonomous Oblast. More than 25,000 tonnes have been delivered to the elevators. (0600)

Virtually the entire combine harvester fleet of Altay Kray, 25,000 combines, are at work in the kray today. A feature of the present harvest is that grain has ripened at the same time in the steppe and in the foothill areas. Every 24 hours, grain crops are reaped on almost 200,000 hectare. (1100)

Tomsk Oblast has begun harvesting its 350,000th hectare of grain crops. (1100)

Tajikistan's statistical service reports that although hay and haylage procurement is going slightly better than last year, considerably less silage has been laid in. Fodder harvesting is going particularly slowly in Chardzhou Oblast. Specialists in the oblast's agro-industrial committees and rayon agro-industrial associations must take emergency measures in order to reach the planned levels of fodder procurement. (1100)

Two kolkhozes in Shegarskiy Rayon, Tomsk Oblast, have started harvesting winter rye. Despite the arid summer, a good harvest has been grown; each hectare is yielding 20-22 quintals of grain. (1100)

Autumn plowing has started in the Mari non-Chernozem Zone. This work is to be carried out on more than 300,000 hectares. The experience of the past year has shown that moldboardless plowing has a great effect on the yield. The ASSR's farmers will apply this progressive method on the greater part of the areas. At the same time as the autumn plowing, the grain-growers are harvesting grain crops and carrying out winter crop sowing. (1100)

The farmers of Voronezh Oblast have fulfilled this year's plan for the sale of grain to the state. More than 1.251 million tonnes of grain have been delivered to reception points. (1400)

Although the harvest in Belorussia is being interrupted by bad weather, the average grain yield has reached 36 quintales per hectare, 10 times higher than last year. There have been substantial increases in yields where technology-intensive procedures are being used, but where such procedures have been neglected there have been heavy losses. Today, the harvest drive was expanded to the whole of the European part of the country, the western oblasts of Kazakhstan, and the virgin lands in the north, but the rates of harvesting do not yet match the scale of the work. Although combines now have greater capacities, the average yields remain the same. Not all machinery is being operated round-the-clock, as it is in Stavropol Kray, where Kochubeyevskiy Rayon and Karachayevo-Cherkessk Autonomous Oblast already have settled with the state. Backup services and motor transportation are a particular problem, even though carrying capacities and numbers of vehicles have increased. There are no such difficulties, however, where motor transportation control centers are in operation. An example in Krasnodar Kray, which has increased its grain yields while reducing its number of vehicles. (Moscow Television Service in Russian, 1430)

SOVIET UNION LAUNCHES WEATHER SATELLITE 18 AUGUST

LD180905 Moscow TASS in English 0838 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 18 TASS -- The Soviet Union launched another meteorological satellite today. Meteor-2 was inserted into an orbiting path with the following parameters:

Initial period of revolution -- 104.1 minutes,
Maximum distance from earth (apogee) -- 974 kilometers,
Minimum distance (perigee) -- 954 kilometers,
Inclination -- 82.5 degrees.

The satellite carries sets of equipment for obtaining global images of cloud cover and the underlying surface in the visible and infrared bands either in the memorizing mode and the live transmission mode, as well as radiometry equipment for a continuous watch on penetrating radiation flows in near-earth space.

Apart from the scientific equipment, Meteor-2 has a system orienting it at earth, a power supply system with an independent device keeping solar batteries trained on the sun, a radiotelemetry system for transmitting data concerning the operation of the satellite's service systems to earth, a radio system for taking precise measurements of the orbit's parameters, and a radio system for beaming scientific information to earth.

The equipment installed aboard the satellite is functioning normally. Meteor-2 is being controlled by a command-and-measurement complex. Data from the satellite is coming to the State Research Institute for Studying Natural Resources and the USSR Hydrometeorological Committee for Analysis and Use.

COSMONAUTS CONTINUE RESEARCH ON 'MIR' COMPLEX

LD141036 Moscow TASS in English 1024 GMT 14 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow August 14 TASS -- The Soviet cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Aleksandrov are completing their working week on board the orbital space station Mir (peace).

In keeping with the programme of geophysical research, the cosmonauts photographed over the past few days individual areas of land and ocean.

Today the crew began work on the unit Korund intended for the production of semi-conductor materials with improved properties in the conditions of microgravity.

A micro-computer incorporated in the unit makes it possible to carry out tests on space materialogy [as received] in an automatic mode according to a pre-set programme. Astrophysical studies are continuing with the use of the on-board international observatory Roentgen, installed in the module Kvant. X-ray sources in the Hercules constellation are the objects of observation.

A medical check-up is also slated for today. This will include appraisal of the cosmonauts' cardio-vascular system, vision and the mass of their bodies. The flight is proceeding normally. Romanenko and Aleksandrov are feeling fine.